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World Reformation Activities of the Dark God — Loving Humans So Much, I Reincarnated in One —

Arc 5: Wind Hero

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Chapter 132: Beginning of bewilderment

“Well then, let’s begin the meeting.”

“Yes!” “Umu.” “Oi-ssu~.” “Dasu!”

Returning to Apollon City, I -Kuromiya Haine-was surrounded by 4 girls.

As a review, let’s speak about each one of them.

<TLN: the following is literally character descriptions and information of past events. Completely safe to skip.>

First, we have the light hero, Kourin Karen-san.

She is the first hero I met, and has been the one I have been acquainted for the longest since then. She is diligent and kind, and possesses the most balanced personality as a hero. Equipped in silver armor, her purity as if it were straight out of a painting is fitting to describe as a saint.

Next, the second one is the fire hero, Katak Mirack.

She is a friend of Karen-san since small, and there was a time when they were in bad terms, but after the relationship was fixed, they became even closer. Being caught by the creed of the fire, she has a manly character that seeks strength. Her body is also well-tempered, to the point that one might even mistake her for a man.

The third one is the water hero, Re Celestis.

She works as an idol while she fights monsters, a unique hero. Can also be considered a skillful one. She is good at singing and dancing along with her fighting skills, and maybe because of this, her personality is also brilliant and cheerful. Her appearance is also excellent. She is a girl that sparkles intensely.

The last one is the fourth, the earth hero, Gonbee Sasae.

She is the newest addition to the group, and is the girl that came from the faraway Earth capital, Ishtar Blaze. She is the youngest within the heroes, and thus, her body is also small and thin. It looks like she herself thinks that she is a

country bumpkin and has a complex about it, but that in itself makes her a simple and cute little girl.

And so, those are all the four.

Heroes that will have their names resound around the world.

We have also accumulated a good amount of fights, and this team that has increased in numbers as the fights went on was...truly a gathering that can be considered a team.

These members are like a representation of the path we have taken and it is deeply moving.

Today, there's something I wanted to talk to them about when we are all together.

The thing I wanted to talk about is...that's right...

"Regarding me loving Haine-san."

Hm?

By the time I noticed, the light hero Karen-san had come close to me.

Or more like, she is hugging me.

"Haine-san..." (Karen)

"Yes?" (Haine)

"Why are you not answering my feelings? I have said it over and over, right? I am not telling you to marry me immediately. I can tell from your behaviour that you are treasuring me. But at times, I would like to hear clear words that show it." (Karen)

Wait wait wait wait, what's with this all of a sudden, Karen-san?

Karen-san loving me is not something that happened recently, and I myself don't think badly of it, but...why is she going on the offensive at this timing? Even though there's Mirack, Celestis, and Sasae around us?

Karen-san, weren't you barely maintaining a line in front of people?

And yet, why are you so suddenly going out of line?!

As I was getting bewildered by this...

“Karen! It is always about this man. Why don’t you say you love me as well?!”
(Mirack)

And now Mirack went crazy as well!

The behaviour of Mirack towards her friend Karen gives a feeling of being further than that of friends, but she is suddenly coming out of the closet now?!

“Just how heated do you think my feelings are for you?! They are hotter than lava, hotter than the sun, you know! Are you going to treat those feelings of mine coldly?! Is it that?! Was being unkind towards you for several years the reason?! I apologize for that! Sorry! Sorry! That’s why, please love me too!!”
(Mirack)

Wait, Mirack?!

Your coming out of the closet is several times crazier than normal?!

I did feel that Mirack’s feelings towards Karen-san surpassed the barrier of gender, but isn’t being this straightforward a bit too risky?!

“My dream~ is~♪” (Celestis)

While we were at it, Celestis suddenly began singing.

Is she also going to do something?!

“While being a hero~ I wish to become the best idol~ But the truth is~ I don’t care about me at all~ With my singing~ my dancing~ I wish to grant energy~ to as many people as possible~ That way~ I will also achieve happiness~ In order to share the energy~ I need to have a mountain of energy~ In order to make everyone smile~ I myself have to smile first~♪” (Celestis)

She surprisingly said something nice.

But what’s this? Isn’t the flow of things been strange for a while now?

The three of them have quirky sides to them, but today, that quirky side has lost its moderation.

There’s no doubt something has happened.

“Could it be...because of this-dasu ka?” (Sasae)

The new member of the hero party, earth hero Sasae-chan, seemed to be the only one who maintained her composure.

In her hand, there's a single bottle.

"What is that bottle? A drink?" (Haine)

"Haine-niichan took so long in coming, so I distributed them to everyone first. I be a big pain for everyone at the previous incident, so this be a soft drink I prepared as a sort of apology-dasu." (Sasae)

Soft drink...

But I can feel a destructive power from it.

I received that bottle from Sasae-chan to test it, and I try placing my nose close to the opening.

".....It stinks of alcohol." (Haine)

No matter where you cut it, this is alcoholic. Thanks but no.

The reason for this disastrous scene had become all clear now.

"Sasae-chan, what are you making everyone drink? This is alcohol ya know. Of course it would release all the desires they have been holding inside their hearts. I wonder if it will be alright? This will definitely be etched as one of their most pained memories. It would be nice if they wake up without any memories of this thou—?!" (Haine)

"What are ya saying-dasu?! Karen-nee-chan and the others may look older in my eyes, but they be legit young ladies! I wouldn't recommend them alcohol before they be adults-dasu yo! This is! Just! Grape Juice-dasu!!" (Sasae)

Grape Juice...

Why is it that it is making me feel a concrete anxiousness?

"That Grape Juice, can I ask the detailed manufacturing method?" (Haine)

"Manufacturing method? It simply be made by wringing grapes-dasu yo?" (Sasae)

I see, I see.

“But this grape juice be high quality, so there be one more step to that. They ferment it-dasu.” (Sasae)

“That’s WI-NE!” (Haine)

So it really was wine, damn it!

Isn’t that the representative of fermented fruit juice wine?!

Why didn’t she notice with the simple fact that there’s the word ‘fermented’?!

“Eh? I wanted to show that mah feelings of reflecting were as high as a mountain and deeper than a valley-dasu yo. Isn’t it more high class the more steps to production there is-dasu ka?” (Sasae)

“The more doesn’t make it better! Going too far can break the good!” (Haine)

“Did I do something disgraceful again-dasu ka?! ” (Sasae)

No, it is actually Karen-san and the others that are currently in the middle of being disgraceful though.

These three who probably ingested alcohol for the first time have become a cluster of drunkards hugging each other.

“Karen! I love you! I love you dearly! No matter what happens in the future, I will protect you!” (Mirack)

“Thanks, Mirack-chan! I love Mirack-chan too! We are the best of friends, aren’t we?! ” (Karen)

“You see, the number one best thing I have experienced in my life up until now was meeting you all! I thought friends were pointless things, but my friendship with you all is a treasure for me!!” (Celestis)

“Of course! If we join forces, we are invincible!” (Mirack)

“I am really am glad to have met Mirack-chan and Celestis-chan!!” (Karen)

“I definitely won’t forget this even till my death; the days I have lived with all of you!!” (Celestis)

.....

I pray that when the alcohol in their system is gone, they will have forgotten everything.

What should I do about this muddy situation?

My only saving right now is that Sasae-chan is still sober.

She is the very cause of this, so it is hard to say that, but having at least one other person who still has their sanity helps me a lot in maintaining my own sanity.

“By the way, Haine-niichan...” (Sasae)

“What?” (Haine)

“Why does Haine-niichan have six arms-dasu?” (Sasae)

No good, this girl is also a goner.

Well, it would be strange for this girl to be the only one who hasn't drunk in this kind of atmosphere, but I thought that she had resistance to alcohol. Seriously, it looks like that wasn't the case.

“Ah, but if ya have 6, that means it be fine to cut off 5, right? Yay~dasu. I wanted to try out cutting off the body of someone with the earth scythe at least once-dasu!” (Sasae)

Moreover, only this girl has quite the darkness hidden inside her heart?!

While I was doing a life-or-death race with Sasae-chan, I waited for everyone to wake up from their intoxication.

Chapter 133: Remake

“Okay everyone, are you all sane now?” (Haine)

“...Eh? What?” (Karen)

“My head smarts.....” (Mirack)

“What were we doing?” (Celestis)

“There be a hole in mah memory-dasu?!” (Sasae)

Good.

Looks like the alcohol has conveniently purged that memory out of them.

It is truly something good. If their memory had remained, all four of them might have taken a straight dive onto that window over there.

Or maybe, the memory actually remains, but they are acting as if they don't remember, but if that's the case, more the reason I should just leave it be.

“By the way, Haine-niichan...” (Sasae)

“What, Sasae?” (Haine)

“Why is the face of Haine-niichan filled with kiss marks-dasu?” (Sasae)

“**Silence.**” (Haine)

Anyways!!

There's a proper reason as to why I have all four heroes gathered here today.

It is in order to talk about the things we have to do from now on.

Subjugation of Mother Monsters.

The most concrete form of disaster that covers this world, monsters, appear in the thousands because of a certain existence.

That certain existence is the Mother Monsters. Monsters that give birth to monsters.

In order to cut off that unproductive chain, there's no other way but to sever

the origin of the monsters that are the Mother Monsters.

After learning of this, I decided on wiping out the Mother Monster to eliminate all the monsters from this world.

There's a total of 4 Mother Monsters.

The plan has already begun moving and the Earth Mother Monster, Grandma Wood, has been subjugated.

But that is simply the first step. There's still the water, fire, and wind Mother Monsters somewhere in this world.

My current objective is to find the remaining Mother Monsters, and eliminate them one by one properly.

Because the course of events proceeded well, it could be said that the matter slid in a favorable manner.

But there's now a new state of affairs...

"That's right! We will defeat the Mother Monsters!" (Karen)

Karen-san roared valiantly.

"With the power of us, the hero alliance, and Haine-san!" (Karen)

.....

...That's right. Allies have intruded in my plan and want to cooperate.

Those allies are Karen-san and her jolly companions. They are all in the hero profession and have a close connection to the monsters being a danger to the world, so I understand their sentiments of wanting to join in, but...I first decided on doing this task of defeating the Mother Monsters on my own.

Monsters are a calamity that was created by Gods. I thought this was my responsibility as the Dark God Entropy.

There's also other reasons behind it though.

But Karen-san and her group crossed over the line I drew, and in the end, saved me in my time of need. That's why, I can't have them stand in the sidelines anymore.

“It goes without saying why we have all gathered here today!” (Karen)

Karen-san took the role of advancing the meeting in my place.

“It is in order to have a discussion! The remaining three Mother Monsters, how will we defeat them! Thinking back on the giant tree that we fought at Ishtar Blaze, it is clear that the other remaining three won’t be an easy fight. It is important for us to wring our brains here and make a careful plan to see how we will fight them!” (Karen)

“Well, that’s how it is.” (Mirack)

“I’m shivering in anticipation. I feel like it will be the ideal stage for the idol hero, Celes-tan!” (Celestis)

Mirack and Celestis seem to be in too.

“...Now that I think about it, what about you, Sasae-chan?” (Haine)

“Yes-dasu?” (Sasae)

I try asking something that has been bothering me for a while now.

“Is it okay for Sasae-chan to be here?” (Haine)

The base of Sasae-chan, Ishtar Blaze, is faraway from the Light capital, Apollon City.

Walking takes around a month; even with a flying machine powered by ethereal, it would take several days.

If a monster disturbance occurs there...

“I be glad that yer worried, but it be okay-dasu!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan puffs her small chest and answers.

“Mah now Founder grandma-chan said this: ‘Ye were a huge help in the incident with Great Pillar-sama, so this be our turn to help ya guys out now!’. In Ishtar Blaze, there’s the Onii-sans of the Scorched Earth Annihilation corps, and there’s still a lot of Golems remaining-dasu! If we leave it to ‘em, even if there be a strong monster appearing, they be okay even without a hero-dasu!” (Sasae)

“Isn’t that sad in itself?” (Celestis)

“Celestis-chan, don’t go further than that!” (Karen)

Karen-san scolded Celestis at her side.

“And so, please let this earth hero Gonbee Sasae accompany you all in defeating the mother of the monsters-dasu! Please-dasu!” (Sasae)

Saying this, Sasae-chan placed both hands and knees on the floor towards me, and even her forehead.

I could tell at a single glance; this girl is accustomed to doing dogeza.

“...It has been decided that Sasae-chan will be taken care of in Apollon City for a while.” (Karen)

As if sending a lifeboat, Karen-san says this.

“The Earth Founder Obaba-sama has also asked this of us. She said she wanted her grandchild, Sasae-chan, to accumulate experience as a hero.” (Karen)

“That’s right-dasu! I understood in the matter with Great Pillar-sama-dasu! I still don’t have the ability and actual results as a hero! I wanna stay under the hero I respect, Karen-nee-chan-dasu yo!” (Sasae)

“I think the thing that you lack the most is your ability to analyze the situation and your decision making though. Just how many big tragedies have occurred because of your rampaging!” (Mirack)

“Mirack-chan, don’t say further!!” (Karen)

Karen-san scolded Mirack who was at her side.

“...Anyways, Yorishiro-sama has already accepted Sasae-chan to stay in the Light Church. That’s why, all heroes will help Haine-san, and we are raging with the will to destroy all Mother Monsters! Haine-san, let’s do our best together!” (Karen)

In the end, it always comes to this huh.

But I haven’t forgotten that they saved me in the fight with Grandma Wood.

This fight can decide the fate of the world. That’s why, the heroes that are the representatives of humanity should join forces and fight together.

I think that the important part of obstacles is not overcoming them, but to overcome them with the help of others.

“...Understood. Let’s do our best together.” (Haine)

“Yes!” (Karen)

“Of course!” (Mirack)

“The thought of doing this without me is a mistake in itself.” (Celestis)

“Dasu!” (Sasae)

The heroes all without exception had their hearts race with determination.

“...But there’s a problem before that.”

Chapter 134: Mother Monster investigation

The problem we have to deal with before subjugating the Mother Monsters.
That is...

“We don’t know where the Mother Monsters are.” (Haine)

“Yeah...” “Yup...” “Geez...” “Dasu...”

That’s right. The remaining three Monster Monsters, we have absolutely no idea where they are.

It is impossible to kick the ass of someone that we don’t where it is.

“We are back to this problem.” (Haine)

I remember being troubled by this before.

“Eh? We were filled with expectation thinking that you had all the information in your hands though. What a useless man.” (Celestis)

“I am not all-knowing, you know.” (Haine)

I return the unfounded expectations of Celestis without any strength.

“Really, rising our expectations. How hopeless.” (Mirack)

“Unreliable-dasu.” (Sasae)

These girls have been really relentless lately.

“Now now. But Haine-san, how did you learn of the Earth Mother Monster, Great Pillar-sama, then?” (Karen)

“That’s uhm...from a certain information source.” (Haine)

There’s no way I can tell them that I directly asked this from one of the four Base Element Gods that created the Mother Monsters. Moreover, that very person is the Fire God Nova that is currently lazing about as a cow-shaped monster.

.....Ah.

“Now that I think about it, there’s another piece of information I received

from that source. The fire Mother Monster, only that one, I know its name and outward traits of.” (Haine)

“Hoh~, my element huh.” (Mirack)

The moment I mentioned fire, Mirack immediately bites.

“The Fire Mother Monster’s name is the Immortal Phoenix. A giant bird-shaped monster, and the fire that covers its body is always burning itself, and from those ashes, many fire element monsters are given birth, or so I heard.” (Haine)

“A fire bird... Hm?Ah?!” (Mirack)

Mirack raises a voice that was screaming she noticed something.

“Could it be that one?!Now that you mention it, that’s true. But—!” (Mirack)

“Do you know of it, Mirack-chi?! In that case, don’t just tease us and spill it already!” (Celestis)

Being pressed by Celestis, Mirack speaks.

“In Muspelheim, there are witness reports every now and then that say there has been a mysterious bird flying around the area. And its traits are just as you said just now, a bird that has its whole body covered in flames, moreover, it is probably quite big, the witnesses say that they noticed it even when it was flying from pretty far away.” (Mirack)

“Yeah yeah, and?!” (Celestis)

“From the abnormal outward appearance it has, the witnesses quickly concluded that it was a monster...but the other party is a bird. By the time the report is given in Muspelheim, and the Fire Militant corps and the fire hero arrive at the place, it has long flown away.” (Mirack)

That’s why, it seems there’s witnesses of that fire bird, thereby there have been no records of fighting it.

As expected, with wings that can let you freely fly in the sky, its whereabouts are unfettered.

It is way too different from Grandma Wood that had its roots dug in and stayed in one place.

“But there’s more information regarding this fire bird. Moreover, from here on, it will enter into the gossip territory.” (Mirack)

“It is fine, just say it already. We are in the step where we are still in between whether the Mother Monsters itself are gossip after all.” (Celestis)

“...Regarding that fire bird, there’s an occult-like story that has no positive proof about. It states that in the places where the fire bird is witnessed, a big monster disaster will definitely occur soon after.” (Mirack)

?!

“There’s no proof that they are connected though. Thanks to that, that bird is being called ‘The Bird that informs of Calamities’ and ‘the Herald of Catastrophe’. But if it is just as Haine says about that being a monster that gives birth to monsters...” (Mirack)

“It falls way too in place!” (Celestis)

That’s true.

If a disaster will certainly occur in the places that the Phoenix passes through, that’s because the Phoenix itself gave birth to those fire element monsters.

The fire bird is not a Herald of Catastrophe, it is the Bringer of Catastrophe.

“...Damn it!! That bird! If I had known that, I would have placed subjugating it as my highest priority!” (Mirack)

“But it is exactly because it is a bird that it doesn’t stay in one place. That’s why you weren’t even able to fight it all this time, right? Even if you notice the importance it held...” (Haine)

“It would be practically impossible to defeat it. Even if there’s a witness report and we use the flying machines to rush to that place the moment we receive it, it is questionable whether it will still be there. Moreover, the witness reports itself are once every several years.” (Mirack)

So it really is impossible to catch the Immortal Phoenix huh.

And while Mirack was speaking, there's Celestis at her side that was slowly getting a more and more serious expression.

"Hey, about the water Mother Monster, you have no info about it, right?"
(Celestis)

"Y-Yeah... Not only the place, even its shape and traits..." (Haine)

It is still a complete mystery.

"I have been wondering...I think that the water Mother Monster is at the sea."
(Celestis)

"Eh?"

"The water element monsters are all aquatic creatures, and the places where they appear are in a waterside or underwater. On top of that, most of the biggest ones are found in the biggest water source, at the sea. Let's assume that the water Mother Monster is inside the sea, the monsters it spreads are from the sea, moreover, if they run through the rivers to go through the whole world..." (Celestis)

It would make sense huh.

"Also, there's no doubt that there have been witnesses to the fire bird and the giant tree, but from what I remember, I have no memory of hearing about witnesses of a water element monster of about the same gigantic size. The only one would be the Great Sea Dragon we fought before, but that wasn't a Mother Monster, right?" (Celestis)

"Yeah, it is not. Just that, I can say with confidence." (Haine)

"In that case, as I thought, it is safe to say that there's no witnesses to a water Mother Monster. The reason why there's for fire and earth and not for water... the most plausible reason would be..." (Celestis)

"Because it is hidden inside the sea huh." (Haine)

"That's right. The sea is wide enough for that. Even if the water Mother Monster possesses the same size as that giant tree, the sea can easily receive it whole. And it is also possible to hide from the eyes of humans for centuries."
(Celestis)

I have lost. Celestis' conjecture is quite convincing.

Coacervate once said: 'The sea is greatness. It is able to store many things inside of it'. The very person that created the Mother Monster, if it is that underhanded God, there's certainly a possibility that he is utilizing that greatness to its best.

But the conclusion that comes from that conjecture is that...

"Finding the water Mother Monster will be harder than the fire bird." (Haine)

We would have to dive deep into the sea which is a lot wider than the land, so just imagining it is making my head hurt.

Even if I were to devote several lives as Kuromiya Haine, I don't have the confidence that I would be able to find it.

Finding the Immortal Phoenix will be difficult.

It would be impossible to find the water Mother Monster that we don't even know its name.

I did have an inkling that it was the case but, we are completely closed in all directions.

We only defeated Grandma Wood who didn't bring much harm to humans. Is this how our plan will come to an end?

"Then we have no choice but to bet on the last remaining one." (Karen)

Karen-san suddenly said this.

"The wind Mother Monster." (Karen)

Chapter 135: At the direction where the wind blows

“Wind...” (Mirack)

“...Mother Monster?” (Celestis)

“Dasu?” (Sasae)

Mirack, Celestis, and Sasae-chan were staring dumbfounded at what Karen-san said. I of course did the same.

“...It is true that now that both the fire and water have been determined as being difficult to find, it is natural to concentrate on the remaining one, but...” (Mirack)

“Even so, to search for the last choice, the Wind Mother Monster? It is practically the same as having no info at all, you know? Or more like, the information we have on it is even less than all the others. That’s why it didn’t come into the conversation, and even if we were to blindly search for it—” (Celestis)

In the middle of Celestis’ refutation, Karen-san interrupts.

“No, we do have a method to obtain information of the Wind Mother Monster, Celestis-chan. To be more precise, to an extent that we might have a chance though...” (Karen)

“Chance?” (Celestis)

“We are going to go meet the wind hero, and then, we will have the wind hero become our comrade as well!” (Karen)

W-What is Karen saying?!

We are talking about the Mother Monsters until now, and yet, why did it suddenly turn into talk about a hero?

“...Eh? Could it be...” (Celestis)

“...The talk about the hero alliance huh!” (Mirack)

“Eh? What-dasu? What is it-dasu?” (Sasae)

Why are Mirack and Celestis making a face as if they understand?

I don't see what they are talking about at all here. Leaving aside Sasae-chan who is new here, I should be the one here who has been the first to second longest with her in this group. I feel like I have been alienated!

"In the time Haine-san had gone to Ishtar Blaze, we talked about this together. In the time – Haine-san- had gone-alone." (Karen)

Ah, she is still stuck on that.

"The light, fire, and water hero have become friends, so we were thinking about having the remaining two heroes join us and make a cooperative relationship with all five representatives!" (Karen)

"You made a plan like that?" (Haine)

"And so, we unexpectedly ended up befriending the earth hero, Sasae-chan. The remaining one is the Wind Church, the wind hero. If we can have her join us as well, the hero alliance will be completed!" (Karen)

"Waai, I love Karen-nee-chan too-dasu~" (Sasae)

"...This girl, can't I make her crispy on the outside and soft on the inside?" (Mirack)

"Give it a break, fire hero." (Celestis)

I feel like these four have already solidified a comedy troupe.

"...Well, what Karen-chi is saying is slightly idealistic though." (Celestis)

Celestis says this as if advocating for Karen-san.

"It is true that in the current state of affairs where we have absolutely no information, trying to dig out new information from a new place is not a bad idea. Mirack-chi and I have been able to provide information or speculate information regarding the Mother Monsters of our elements after all." (Celestis)

"What you are saying is that if we were to ask the Wind Church or the wind hero, the probabilities of being able to hear about information regarding the Wind Mother Monster are high, right?" (Mirack)

“They might even have critical information that might help us break through this stalemate. All of this currently hasn’t left the territory of speculation though. If we don’t have any other things to do, there might be worth in trying.” (Haine)

“...Uhm uhm-dasu!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan raised a hand with a jerk.

“Can I speak too-dasu ka?!” (Sasae)

I stay silent in contemplation.

And then, I look at the eyes of Celestis and Mirack...

“.....Go ahead.” (Haine)

“Hiyh?! Yer tone of voice doesn’t have a single ounce of trust in it-dasu! But I be saying it-dasu! I be getting back mah lost honor from this opinion-dasu!” (Sasae)

I won’t retort anymore.

“Our objective is not to find the Mother Monsters, it be to defeat the Mother Monsters-dasu! So, even if we safely find ‘em, it be natural that we will enter a violent fight-dasu!” (Sasae)

“Well, yeah...” (Celestis)

“She hasn’t said anything wrong for now.” (Mirack)

Celestis and Mirack were cautiously listening to her.

“That’s why, obtaining more fighting power ain’t gonna be bad by no means-dasu! By having the wind hero as our comrade, our fights will turn more in our favor! Many on the same objective-dasu!” (Sasae)

Uwa, this is troublesome.

I can’t deny what Sasae-chan said.

It is true that having more allies in this fight against Mother Monsters would be beneficial.

Of course, if it is just defeating them, I as the Dark God incarnation can do

something about it, but in the Grandma Wood fight, without the help of Karen-san and the others, I wonder how many casualties it would have appeared on the citizens if they hadn't been there.

And also, having Sasae-chan say something decent for once is shocking.

"Karen-nee-chan, was that just now okay-dasu ka?" (Sasae)

"Yeah. Good job remembering all that, Sasae-chan." (Karen)

Ah, so Karen-san was the one who suggested it.

I see, that's more relaxing.

"But...what Karen-san said via Sasae-chan has a point. We have no other options, and with small expectations of finding information of the Wind Mother Monster, we will aim for the completion of the hero alliance. That might be nice." (Haine)

"As expected of Haine-san! As I thought, I really do love Haine-san!!" (Karen)

Is what Karen-san said in elation.

...But saying that so publicly is a bit embarrassing.

Especially in a place where that fire hero is listening. I feel like she would be getting jealous in an instant.

"Haine, I will bake you." (Mirack)

"Can't you make it more indirect like the times with Sasae-chan?!" (Haine)

Mirack is scary.

Anyways, looks like our plan has been decided. We will head to the Wind Church's headquarters, and make contact with the Church or the hero.

The city where the Wind Church is located at...wait, I feel like I have a recollection of hearing about it a long time ago. The Wind capital, Rudra Metropolis, was it?

"So, where is the Wind capital, Rudra Metropolis?" (Haine)

"..." "..." "..." "...Dasu."

Hm?

““Don’t know”” “Dasu” (All)

And back to square one.

Chapter 136: Like air

Oi, what is the meaning of this? Why do they not know where the Wind capital is?

At first, we were thinking about searching for the Mother Monsters. There's 3 remaining, but we don't know where they are. That's why, we decided on taking a temporal detour to meet the wind hero, and bet our hopes on finding a clue there.

We were planning on going to the place where the wind hero is.

And yet, we don't know where that place is.

"In the end, we still don't know anything!!" (Haine)

Even I couldn't stay composed anymore.

I slam the table several times to alleviate my frustration slightly.

"Please don't get agitated, Haine-san! Ah, right. How about I hug you to calm you down?" (Karen)

"I won't be able to stay composed in a different sense!" (Haine)

Could it be Karen-san is still drunk?

Looking at this situation, Celestis grumbles with a disappointed tone.

"Geez, it can't be helped, right? The Wind Church is a secretive place after all." (Celestis)

"Secretive?" (Haine)

"You see, the Wind Church has a completely secretive creed. Thus, a secret church. And so, as time went on, it worsened, and at present, we don't know the location of their headquarters, don't know the face or name of the Founder, the characteristic color of the Church, scale; everything is all secret. It has become a mysterious organization that we don't even know if it even exists." (Celestis)

"I see." (Haine)

I feel like it really does make sense.

The reason why is because that explanation of Celestis just now overlapped perfectly well with that one in my memories.

It is not memories of me as human, but the time when I was a God.

Wind God, Quasar.

One of the four Basic Element Gods.

Also, it goes without saying but, it is the God of the Wind Church we are currently talking about.

He is a fellow God that cooperated with creating this world, and also someone that had become my enemy in the battle of the Gods.

There was the Fire God Nova, the Water God Coacervate, and the Mother Earth God Mantle; but within those, the Wind God Quasar was a cut from the rest and had a low presence.

Honestly speaking, I can't remember what kind of person it was.

Well, it is also because I was sealed right after creating the world, but even so, the other Gods had a trait that left an impression in my mind, and yet, I don't remember anything regarding Quasar only.

It really is a God akin to air.

The Wind Church that worships this God being a secretive one is incredibly fitting.

Did Quasar itself purposely make it so that I wouldn't know?

...No good. I really can't remember.

"...Then, about the wind hero as well?" (Haine)

"People that have met the wind hero in this group~." (Celestis)

Celestis sings like a sergeant, but no one raises their hand.

The Wind Church...

Not only the God, even its Church, hero, and everything related is like air.

"No, this is not the time to be impressed. In that case, it would be completely

impossible to make contact with the Wind Church. This or searching for the Mother Monster; it is on a level where we have to wonder which one is more impossible.” (Haine)

“Right. Honestly speaking, I can’t think of any good idea. Karen-chi, Sasae-chi, lesbo, think of something as well.” (Celestis)

“You insulted me casually again.” (Mirack)

Mirack protested naturally, but it looks like she has no good ideas either.

“Hmmm~, ah, what about this?” (Karen)

Karen-san’s lightbulb flashed.

“We will spread around pamphlets in all major cities except Rudras Metropolis. With contents like: ‘Wind hero, please contact us’. Even if the Wind capital is a secret place, its residents should be here and there, so if they pick up those pamphlets and take it to Rudras Metropolis...” (Karen)

“Just how many thousands would we need for that? Just the act of spreading it is not free, you know?” (Celestis)

Also, the matter with the Mother Monsters is something that I would like to be kept as secret as possible, so publicizing it would be a bit...

“This unworthy Gonbee Sasae! Has a good idea-dasu!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan raised her hand with energy.

“We kidnap people walking around and interrogate them-dasu! They might be people of the Wind Church, and they might spit out the information they hiding-dasu! We continue that several times-dasu yo!” (Sasae)

“Just how random can that be?! There’s a limit to controlling with fear! You, since the time you officially became a part of us, hasn’t that dark part of yours been growing more prominent?!” (Celestis)

I also thought that.

Also, Celestis has been the straight-man for a while now, and that gives me peace of mind.

“...But, you know, we have run into a wall huh.” (Haine)

“True. Or more like, Haine-chi, haven’t you been enjoying it watching me retort on my own for a while now?” (Celestis)

This is a lot more of a difficult voyage than I thought.

We ran onto a wall right at the start trying to find a way to search for the Mother Monsters, and so, we decided to leave it aside for now, and we have ran onto a wall searching for the wind hero as well.

We are in the middle of holding our heads brooding on what to do now.

“Looks like you are troubled.”

“Yorishiro-sama?!” (Karen)

“Light Founder?!” (Mirack)

“Light Founder-sama?!” (Celestis)

“Hiiih?! She be together with the scary person too-dasu!” (Sasae)

Another troublesome one has come!

The Light Church’s Founder, Yorishiro.

Just by appearing, the heroes here were all trembling.

By the way, Doraha who has been sticking to Yorishiro like her shadow lately is also with her.

Sasae-chan was trembling because of her. Did something happen?

“Looks like you are searching for the Wind Church.” (Yorishiro)

“As expected of you, you catch on quick. Were you eavesdropping?” (Haine)

Is what I said teasingly, but Yorishiro didn’t answer with a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ and simply giggled.

Truly like her.

“By the way, Haine-san, what’s with those kiss marks that are filling up your face? That’s quite the lovely make-up you have there-desu wa ne.” (Yorishiro)

“Hiiih?!” (Haine)

“I will have you explain that properly later.” (Yorishiro)

‘Anyways’, is what Yorishiro says as she changes the topic.

Since the moment she appeared, the control of the conversation has been grasped completely by her. Seriously, what a woman.

“The Wind Church. They truly are shrouded in mystery, and are a troublesome party.” (Yorishiro)

“Troublesome...” (Haine)

“Without showing their figures, they display their power behind the scenes while hiding their cards, and keep in check the other Churches. As the one who manages the Light Church, their difficulty in handling is quite troubling. Once you let your guard down, they draw near you without making a sound. There have been several instances where a dagger has been thrust to my neck.” (Yorishiro)

Of course, thrusting a dagger to her neck is simply a metaphor, but to have Yorishiro say so much of them.

The strangeness of the Wind Church has increased by a lot.

“Making contact with such a Wind Church shouldn’t be a good thing. They repudiate the thought of trying to catch wind of them. If you thread poorly, you might even be erased secretly.” (Yorishiro)

“Scary-dasu!” (Sasae)

“But be at ease. The Light Church I manage is one of the five Great Churches just like the Wind Church. And I am its Founder.” (Yorishiro)

Hm? What is it?

“I know the way to contact the Wind Church.” (Yorishiro)

Chapter 137: Appointment

After that, around 1 month passed.

I don't know if the statement of Yorishiro was correct or not, but the time to prove it has arrived.

"But...why are we here?" (Haine)

The place we are standing at right now is not the Apollon City we are familiar with. We went outside of it, to a field that is far away.

In terms of location, I would say it is in the space between Apollon City and Ishtar Blaze.

In the first place, Ishtar Blaze is the furthest city in terms of distance between Apollon City, so the space between it is quite a distance.

Moreover, it is not like there's anything in that place. Arriving at the actual place, we looked around, but the only thing that was there was short grass.

Maybe because it is in a dry area, there's no big trees growing here, and in terms of terrain, the ground is completely flat, allowing you to see all the way to the horizon.

For now, Karen-san, Yorishiro, and I were there. And counting Doraha who is accompanying Yorishiro, we total four.

At a slightly further away place, there's around a hundred Aurora Knight corps. It can probably be called accompanying the Founder, or more like, bodyguards.

"Hey Yorishiro, can you tell us already?" (Haine)

'Is an envoy of the Wind Church really going to come waiting at a place like this?', is what I continued saying in my question.

"Ara, I didn't say a single thing about that, you know?" (Yorishiro)

"Eeeh?" (Haine)

Then why did you bring us all the way to a place like this?

“I am sorry, Haine-sama.” (Doraha)

Is what Doraha suddenly said and went down on her knees.

“I was strictly ordered by Yorishiro-sama to not disclose today’s plans to Haine-sama.” (Doraha)

“Eh?! Why?!” (Haine)

“She apparently wants to surprise you.” (Doraha)

Oi, this Founder.

When I stare daggers at her, Yorishiro simply took them on with a fresh expression.

“...What about Karen-san?” (Haine)

“Sorry... I have already been told what will be happening now.” (Karen)

So I am the only one who doesn’t know anything?!

“As a hero, I have to get involved with the diplomatic area of other Churches after all. Also...isn’t that right, Yorishiro-sama?” (Karen)

“Yeah, Karen-san.” (Yorishiro)

“Wouldn’t you want to surprise the person you like?!” (Karen)

How soothing.

Since the time these two hit it off, they have been playing around with me.

When there’s a third party, they restrain themselves, but when there’s only the three of us, they truly go berserk.

How many times have I already been crushed by that.

...Eh? But right now, it is not really only us three, there’s one more.

I direct my gaze at the one other member, the dark skin girl.

The shadow hero that has returned from the Underworld Country after a thousand years, Doraha. Being amnesiac, even when she possesses the prestige of being the strongest hero, she stays simplistic like a young girl, but...

“I am truly sorry, Haine-sama. Just like I said before, I have been strictly

ordered to not speak about it.” (Doraha)

“Ah, it is fine. Don’t worry about it. I will get to know if we keep waiting here anyways, right?” (Haine)

But why is she so formal with me?

She is really courteous to a point that it makes it hard to think she is amnesic. She is so courteous, I would like it if the heroes of this generation were to learn from her.

She is way too courteous to a hero assistant like me.

“It would be okay for you to be revered at least once, right?” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro whispered to my ear from behind.

Could it be that this woman took advantage of Doraha’s lack of memories and educated her with weird memories?

“Uhm, Haine-sama!” (Doraha)

Doraha wants to say something.

“If you are dissatisfied, please fondle my boobs to calm down!” (Doraha)

“Oi, caretaker!!” (Haine)

I instantly felt uneasy in leaving Doraha in the care of Yorishiro!

I am in the presence of the hero and her aide, so I can’t just go grabbing the collar of the Founder.

“What the hell did you put into the brain of this girl?! What are you tainting the pure heart of this girl with?!” (Haine)

“Ufufu, because you know, Doraha asked me what would make you feel happy after all~~.” (Yorishiro)

“In that case, the more the reason you shouldn’t tell her lies like that!” (Haine)

No, it is not like I wouldn’t feel happy touching boobs though.

But the action itself and a lot of other miscellaneous issues are involved.

“Haine-sama, Yorishiro-sama.” (Doraha)

While we were bickering in that way, Doraha alone calmly notified us.

“It has come.” (Doraha)

Eh? What has come?

The envoy of the Wind Church?

“An envoy won’t be coming. The Wind Church won’t be giving us a single one of their members.” (Yorishiro)

At the direction where Doraha is pointing at and where Yorishiro is looking at; at that place, a big cloud of dust rose.

...No, that’s not it. For a second, I thought it was a cloud of dust, but that’s not it.

That’s a cloud.

“Is that...the ‘Wind Barrier’, Yorishiro-sama?” (Karen)

Karen-san asks Yorishiro with doubt mixed in it.

‘Wind Barrier’?

“That’s right. In order for the Wind Church to hide their headquarters, they use this barrier that has been created with the power of the Wind God. Not only does it obstruct view, it also wards off intruders. The very symbol of those isolated people-desu wa.” (Yorishiro)

“Eh? Wait a moment. The reason why such a thing is spreading right in front of our eyes is because...” (Haine)

“The Wind Church has not send an envoy. They won’t give us anyone... Their very city is coming to us.” (Yorishiro)

And so, that mass of dark clouds was steadily approaching us.

The dark clouds that were like walls were closing in on us, and by the time our vision was dyed in black and gray, its approach stopped.

And then, suddenly...the ‘Wind Barrier’ cleared up.

Chapter 138: Wandering City

“This is the...Wind capital, Rudras Metropolis?!”

Once the black cloud cleared up and the thing inside it had been exposed to the broad daylight, my vision was still covered completely by something humongous.

If I had to put it in words, it would be a city on tires.

Of course, even if I say tires, it is not like those normal ones that are used on ethereal cars, the ones here were several times bigger.

Moreover, there's six at one side and there's a base that is putting them all together, and over that base, the city is on top of it.

In other words...this is...

“Is this the Wind capital, Rudras Metropolis?” (Haine)

It was so shocking, I asked twice.

The one who honestly answered my question that was akin to incoherent muttering was the Founder, Yorishiro.

“That's right. It was constructed by refining ethereal engineering; a supergiant method of transportation. This city that is on top of this is exactly the Wind capital, Rudras Metropolis, that worships the Wind God Quasar.” (Yorishiro)

How overwhelming!

Just how much time, resources, and labour force would be required to make something like that?

Truly a compilation of human civilization.

“Uhm, I...! Different from Haine-san, I received all information beforehand, and yet...! I still can't hold down my surprise!” (Karen)

Karen-san says this at my side.

Even she was like that, so I who was not told anything about this was already at the farthest land of agitation.

In a sense, their plan was a big success.

“U-Ufufufufu! D-D-Did you g-g-get surprised, Haine-s-s-s-san?!” (Yorishiro)

“Aren’t you surprised as well?!” (Haine)

What’s wrong, Yorishiro-san?!

“*Cough*, it can’t be helped. This is also my first time seeing this moving land after all.” (Yorishiro)

Oh, so Yorishiro also has cute parts in her like getting scared huh. Making me think that might also be a trap though.

But yeah, a moving city.

That’s how Yorishiro described it, but it truly must be that.

This city being on top of these tires has made this Wind capital, Rudra Metropolis, unknown of its details for a long time.

And the reason has now been cleared.

Being in constant movement, it doesn’t stay in one place. There’s no way it would be possible to pinpoint the location of a city like that.

But I still don’t understand why they would go to such lengths to hide the details of their city.

“Secretive to the point that they would make a whole city move. In my opinion, this surpasses my understanding-desu wa.” (Yorishiro)

Is what Yorishiro said with a tiresome voice.

Really, what are the people of the Wind Church trying to do?

“Well, since we have the chance, we can just ask the people themselves.” (Yorishiro)

“Yeah.” (Haine)

“They are coming out.” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro raised her head and it seems she had her attention at something, so I also follow her gaze.

What I saw at that place was what could be called the extension part of the

giant moving city.

At that place, there's something similar to a gondola lift, and it was making *gashan!* sounds that reached even our ears as the gondola lowered. It was hung by wires, so it looks like there's no need to worry about it suddenly falling down.

It lowers to the ground at an appropriate speed, and the door of the gondola opens.

And then, from inside it, around six people with the same clothing –probably soldiers– move out and line up to the sides. After that, the one who appeared at the center of it was...a young man with firm features.

“Were you the ones who stopped the ungraspable wind?”

The man speaks with a bitter attitude.

“It is a pleasure to meet you. I am the Light Church's Founder, name's Yorishiro.” (Yorishiro)

In response to that, the young man makes a greeting with polished courtesy.

“Wind Church's Founder, Toreido Shiva.” (Shiva)

The man called himself Shiva, and revealed his title as the Wind Founder.

In other words, he is the head of this moving city.

“I am honored to be in your presence-desu wa. Since the time I entered the position of Light Founder, at this moment, I have finally met with all the other Founders.” (Yorishiro)

Eh?

Karen-san at my side was also making an ‘eh?’ face.

Just how much lack of relations does this Wind Church have?

“Due to our Wind Creed, we don't find it pleasant to make contact with pagans. Unless there's a big reason for it, it would be impossible to undo the Velz Bull and stop Rudras Metropolis.” (Shiva)

Hm?

“Slaves of the Light Goddess Inflation, we have complied with a promise from ancient times and have stopped the wind that would originally not stop. Let’s hear what you have to say. If it’s something stupid, our anger will change the wind into storm, and will make you bastards pay.” (Shiva)

What a coercive attitude.

But without being coerced by that firmness of his, Yorishiro doesn’t break her elegant pace.

“The emergency call for a conference between the five Churches. This is also my first time utilizing it, so I was worried if it would actually work. But I am glad that it went as planned. Regarding the business...right right, Karen-san.”
(Yorishiro)

“Yes?” (Karen)

“Wind Founder-sama, the one here is the hero of the Light Church, name’s Karen-san. She is strong, cute, and the pride of our Church, you know? This is a good opportunity, so I will be introducing her.” (Yorishiro)

“U-Uhm, please to meet you!” (Karen)

Being suddenly thrown into the conversation, it took Karen-san her everything to just greet.

On the other hand, the Wind Founder, Shiva...

“.....”

Is getting annoyed!

The matter was dodged and he is getting annoyed by it!

As expected of Yorishiro. There’s no one as good as her in elegantly pushing the buttons of the other party.

“If possible, I would like to introduce her to your wind hero as well.”
(Yorishiro)

“Pointlessly revealing information is not in our wind creed. There’s no need for the hero in this time’s conference.” (Shiva)

“Ara ara, so the Wind God is a stingy one.” (Yorihshiro)

“What did you say?!” (Shiva)

Yorishiro-san, Yorishiro-san, you are provoking the other party too much.

Even when this Founder has a face that says jokes don't work on him.

“Wait! Wait wait!” (Haine)

Unable to endure it, I try to calm down the two.

Thanks to that, the surroundings of the Wind Founder step in.

“What's with you?!” (Shiva)

“Uhm, I am sorry. I am merely an attendant.” (Haine)

And there, Yorishiro speaks even more unnecessary things.

“That person there is Kuromiya Haine-san. A person that is far stronger than you or your hero.” (Yorishiro)

“Yorishirooooo!!” (Haine)

Why are you provoking them?!

Why are you doing such unnecessary provocations?!

“Isn't it fine? About the matter at hand, it can't be spoken right now anyways.” (Yorishiro)

“Eh?”

“The five Founders Conference can't begin unless all five Founders are gathered after all.” (Yorishiro)

Chapter 139: Summit

It looks like things have turned hectic.

The five Churches that lead this world: Earth, Water, Wind, Fire, and Light; their leaders are going to be congregating in one place?

“That is the Five Founders Conference.” (Yorishiro)

Is what Yorishiro gives me a lecture about, but if possible, I would like it if you had told me all beforehand.

“The five Churches are the existences that rule over all the people in this world. For the sake of that responsibility, we have shouldered a variety of duties and authorities. If need be, we create laws, or at times, take on arms and fight. One of the authorities that have been given to us is to open a Five Founders Conference.” (Yorishiro)

In the occasion an unknown chaos occurs in this world that a Church can’t cope on its own, there’s the need for all churches to align their wills and blades.

What’s opened for that sake is the Five Founders Conference.

All tops of the Churches gather in one place and discuss directly.

“...Is what it means.” (Yorishiro)

That’s all the explanation of Yorishiro.

“The prohibition the five Churches have regarding the utilization of ethereal weaponry, and the prohibition of proselytizing in other Churches’ base were also established in the Five Founders Conference. The general rule is that all five Founders have to be present, so it would trouble us if only at this moment the Wind Church were to not appear.” (Yorishiro)

“That’s why we stopped the blowing wind. We are fulfilling our duty as one of the five Churches.” (Shiva)

The Wind Founder Shiva said this curtly.

“This is the sole precedent where the location-unknown Wind Church would answer to our calls. The Founders of each church possess a secret divine power

signal for the times when a Five Founder Conference takes place. As long as there's that, the notice will arrive at the Wind Church even when we don't know where it is." (Yorishiro)

"And then, once we receive that signal, the agreement is that we would be coming to this location. The one who will be receiving us is the very person that has sent the signal. In other words, Light Founder, that means the one who sent out the signal for the conference was you this time, right?" (Shiva)

"That's right-desu wa, Wind Founder." (Yorishiro)

"Then, I will have you tell me the topic of discussion for this conference. The business that I have been questioning you many times for a while now." (Shiva)

The tone of voice of the Founder Shiva increased in sharpness. I could feel the coldness of a blade from the air.

"If the topic of discussion is not approved as something important enough to have all five Founders gathered to discuss, we will simply return to flowing with the wind. This is also a special privilege given to us Wind Church in the time we created this Five Founder Conference system. Light Founder, Yorishiro, let's have you answer already. Just what business did you have that you called us, drifters of the wind?" (Shiva)

In that tone of voice and pressure, it was as if he was saying: 'if this is something stupid, I will be cutting you down as payment'.

It is already to a level that can be called killing intent.

Being directed that killing intent, is our Yorishiro okay?

Karen-san was watching over this in nervousness, but the Yorishiro in question was showing calmness.

"Then, I will be direct. Our Light Church will be erasing all monsters from this world without leaving a single one remaining." (Yorishiro)

"?!"

That declaration changed even the face color of the Wind Founder.

"We want to ask the cooperation for that to the Earth, Water, Fire, and Wind people. That's the reason for this Five Founders Conference. What we five

Founders will be discussing in this conference will be in how to bring demise to the monsters that have been troubling the humans for close to a century.”
(Yorishiro)

“Impossible... Impossible!” (Shiva)

The expression of the Founder Shiva was already dyed in shock.

Eradicating monsters must be that hard to believe for the people in this world.

...But even so...

“Yorishiro-san, Yorishiro-san!” (Haine)

I hurriedly approached Yorishiro.

“What are you saying so suddenly? Eradicating monsters, you say. Could it be you are going to...!” (Haine)

“That’s exactly what I will be doing, Haine-san. I plan on using all the resources from the five Churches in order to search for the Mother Monsters.”
(Yorishiro)

What?!

“Haine-san, it looks like you plan on dealing with the Mother Monster subjugation alone, but I hold a different opinion. The monsters are a problem that all humans shoulder. That’s exactly why all humans should cooperate and overcome this, and with that, humans will obtain new power from this.”
(Yorishiro)

As expected of one of the persons that rules over one of the churches. In her past life, she was even the queen that created and raised the strongest nation of the world.

At times, I even wonder if she is actually the one within the Gods that believes and treasures humans the most. I am losing confidence.

“Mother Monsters, you say? Could it be...” (Shiva)

On the other hand, the Wind Founder, Shiva, was still trembling in agitation.

“How about it, Shiva-san? Have you accepted the holding of this Five

Founders Conference?” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro asks for Shiva’s consent.

At that moment...

“There’s no need for that.”

The voice of a hoarse old woman reverberated.

That voice is...!

“You are—!”

At some point in time, an old woman wearing the Earth Founder’s garment was standing right close to us.

With several acolytes along with her, and one of them was the earth hero, Sasae-chan.

“Haine-niichan! Karen-nee-chan! It been a short while-dasu!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan waves her hand energetically at the side of the old woman.

That’s right, that Obaa-san is the new Founder that was appointed after the Grandma Wood battle, the grandmother of the earth hero, Sasae-chan.

She herself was an earth hero a few generations before, moreover, she had enough skills and achievements to even be called with an alias like ‘Taker by the roots’.

“The new Earth Founder-sama, right? I am honored to meet you.” (Yorishiro)

“Don’t mind it. I was just about to make ma rounds to the Founders due to being newly appointed, but now ya have saved me the trouble for that-sa ne. Oh~, the Light Church’s Founder and hero are both beautiful flowers.”

Exchanging their first greetings, the Light and Earth Founder shake hands.

Seeing this, the Wind Founder recovers his color.

“You are the Earth Founder? What is the meaning of this?! In the agreements of the Five Founders Conference, it is stated that the other Founders cannot step in until the Wind Church has given its consent!” (Shiva)

“The Five Founders Conference will take place.”

The Obaa-san clearly states this.

“It is true that the holding of the Five Founders Conference is decided by Wind, but if all other Churches accept it aside from ya, it shouldn’t matter. The majority rule is the foremost of all principles-sa ne.”

By the time I noticed, there were two other groups that were approaching from two different directions.

“Good grief. There’s quite a lot of hot-blooded ones in the other Church Founders huh. Looks like this will be a tiring conference.”

The Founder of the Water Church, Ru Azul.

He is an unique Founder that was originally the supreme ruler of the maritime business in Hydra Ville and was welcomed by the Water Church.

With his past history of being a merchant, he possesses a self-interested thought pattern, so even from his position as a Founder, he is a ferocious one.

“Let there be hot-bloodedness.”

Fire Church’s Founder, *Saruo Enou*. <Monkey King Fire King>

Rising from General of the Fire Militant corps to Founder, a pure warrior at work. Training many a fighter with those hands of his, the fire hero, Mirack, is also a direct disciple of his.

Earth, Water, Fire, Wind, and Light; the five Founders have gathered.

Chapter 140: Gathering of Founders

“This is—?!”

The Wind Founder Shiva falters.

The ones surrounding him are the equally notorious Founders of the five Churches.

Earth Founder, *Nekosogi Shakaruma* <Her alias in Japanese>; Water Founder, Ru Azul; Fire Founder, Saruo Enou; and the Light Founder, Yorishiro.

“Yaho~, Karen-chi.” (Celestis)

“Were you lonely, Karen?!” (Mirack)

The water hero, Celestis, and the fire hero, Mirack, had also come.

“Ah, Mirack-chan, Celestis-chan! So you were the ones who brought the Founder-sans, right?!” (Karen)

Karen-san was also happy and held hands with her friends.

Yorishiro looks at them with her eyes narrowed.

“You heard about it beforehand, right? The hero alliance can show its effectiveness in this kind of way.” (Yorishiro)

I see, so she used the heroes that chatter habitually in Apollon City as envoys huh.

“The Earth, Water, and Fire Founders have already been notified of my claim via the heroes. Along with a message telling them that if they agree, they were to gather in this place. I can take our meeting here today in that way, right?” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro, who is without doubt the youngest one within the Founders, looked around the people of her same position that were a lot older than her.

“...Well, I have a big debt with ya guys because of that incident before. With that also taken into consideration, I be riding on this talk-sa ne.”

“Whether it is a Founder or a merchant, there’s the need to discern the

benefits of the future. The claim of Yorishiro-dono, I felt it was a business opportunity.” (Azul)

“Let there be hot-bloodedness.” (Enou)

Positive words from the Earth, Water, and Fire Founders.

Hearing this, Shiva made a bitter expression.

“Now then, what will you do, Wind Founder? Four of the five agree; even if you cry alone, it will only sound like a spoiled brat, you know?” (Yorishiro)

“...Hmph, fine.” (Shiva)

Shiva says this as if spitting it out.

“It is not like I am not interested in the claim of the Light Founder. Let’s see in detail if that’s not just nonsensical talk.” (Shiva)

“Thank you very much. Well then, let’s leave it at having an unanimous vote in opening the Five Founders Conference. Uhm, is the assembly hall really okay to be where you wish it to be?” (Yorishiro)

Assembly hall?

While I was confused, the Wind Founder says in an exaggerated manner.

“Very well. This time’s Founder Conference will be in our headquarters, Rudras Metropolis. That’s why we have come here along with our land.” (Shiva)

Eh?

In other words, we will be entering that moving city?

Karen-san and Yorishiro were whispering at my side.

“This is...it has become quite the event, don’t you think? To think we would be able to check out the Wind capital!” (Karen)

“Yeah, to think the Wind capital that has been denying outsiders has invited us, moreover, we didn’t even ask for it. That’s exactly what you would call, ‘what kind of wind is blowing here?’” (Yorishiro)

It seems like it really is a big deal.

In the time I was sensing an incredible atmosphere here, the talk between the

tops was steadily progressing.

“Wind Founder, Shiva-sama, we appreciate your kindness, but your people have been in secrecy for a long time, and for your people, the Wind capital is supposed to be the very definition of a sacred land that no one can step into. Can you please tell us the reason why you have decided to accept us in it?”
(Yorishiro)

“Let’s just say this was on the discretion of the Wind God.” (Shiva)

Quasar’s discretion huh.

That air-like God, what is it thinking?

“BUT...” (Shiva)

Shiva resolutely said this.

“Of course, I will be placing restrictions on the people entering. First of all, the only ones that can enter are the Founders. I will allow one bodyguard per church. Is there any objections?” (Shiva)

One bodyguard max.

That means the role will naturally fall onto the heroes.

“Oya oya, how cold. Since it was a rare chance, I brought a lot of people in order to deepen each other’s understanding.” (Azul)

“Let there be hot-bloodedness.” (Enou)

Looks like the Founders are also dissatisfied with it.

But even so, this is a visit from the Founders.

All churches have come with a unit of at least a hundred soldiers, and now that it has been allowed to take only one from that group, it would certainly be stingy.

“I will have the remaining people camp at the outskirts of the moving city. We will provide the facilities and food for that. There should be no complains with that.” (Shiva)

“This just be a hypothetical scenario but...”

Is what the Earth Founder Obaa-san said.

The volume of her voice was low, but it was a voice that was so sharp it felt as if a scythe was thrust at your neck.

“If an unexpected situation occurs inside the city, what shall be done? The only ones who can enter the city will be the Founders and the heroes. They are existences that be irreplaceable for the church. The time something happens, can ya take responsibility?”

“At that time...” (Shiva)

A faint smile appeared in the face of Shiva.

“You can attack Rudras Metropolis with all the soldiers that are at standby outside. Even if they are not as strong as heroes, if it’s with several hundreds of combatants that can control divine power, they should be able to at least destroy the tires of the moving city easily. That way, we will be sitting ducks.”
(Shiva)

The conversation of these two had the scent of implied danger in it.

There’s not many unexpected situations that can occur inside Rudras Metropolis.

If there is, it would be one thing.

The Wind Church is using this opportunity to capture the Founders and heroes that have entered their bosom.

With the matter of them being secretive and then suddenly saying they will be receiving the Founders inside their base, it reeks of suspicious.

It can’t be helped to think that there’s some sort of hidden agenda here.

The Obaa-san, who was a past hero, pointed out this possibility and warned them to ‘not do anything weird’, and the Wind Founder answered in response with ‘if you think it is weird, just attack’ as he faced her.

It was as if sparks were flying.

“It is embarrassing saying it myself but, within the five major cities, Rudras Metropolis is the smallest. The population is also the lowest. If we fight straight

on, the ones falling first would definitely be us.” (Shiva)

“That’s why ya were thorough with that secrecy, and were progressing with the ethereal research the most compared ta anywhere. There be no doubt that ye guys be the weakest if we were to fight head on, but there be no way ye thinkin’ about fighting head on. Yer not someone we can lower our guards on-sa ne.”

I feel like the sparks might create fires already!

“Now now, isn’t it fine already?” (Azul)

Unable to endure the atmosphere, the Water Founder, that looked like the one with the weakest marrow, interjected.

“No matter what we will be talking about and what we decide on, what’s necessary is trust between churches, right? If there’s no trust, there’s no point no matter what’s decided on.” (Azul)

“Let there be hot-bloodedness.” (Enou)

And the Fire Founder accompanies his words.

“Fuh, well fine. It be just as the Water guy said. For now, I be ‘trusting’ ya Wind guy. If ya betray me, killin’ ya would be a justified cause after all.”

“Hmph, fine.” (Shiva)

Looks like things have wrapped up for now.

“Sasae, how about coming together with me? Seeing a foreign city can be a learning experience for the future.”

“Understood, *Sobo-chan*!” (Sasae) <You will be learning all ways of saying Grandma with this Earth Founder! >:D>

“This one will of course be asking Celestis to be my bodyguard. If you are with me, this one will feel as if this one is on board of a cruiser after all.” (Azul)

“Oka~y! Leave it to me, Papa!” (Celestis)

“Let there be hot-bloodedness.” (Enou)

“At your command.” (Mirack)

The other churches were steadily deciding on their bodyguards.

As expected, the ones chosen as bodyguards are all without exception heroes.

And so, the problem falls onto the Light Church.

The one who will be personally selected as the bodyguard of Yorishiro would normally be the hero Karen-san, but Yorishiro also has an exclusive bodyguard called Doraha.

On top of that, well, I am probably counted.

Who is Yorishiro going to choose from us three?

Chapter 141: The chosen ones

“As expected, the one who should be going here is Karen-san. The Light Founder should be protected by the light hero.” (Haine)

When I bring out a sound and proper argument, Karen went against it.

“No, I think it is better for Haine-san to go. Thinking about the things that will be talking about at the conference, it is definitely necessary for Haine-san to be there.” (Karen)

In order to form this Five Founders Conference, Yorishiro submitted the Mother Monsters as a topic of discussion.

There’s no doubt that the talk about these existences will be discussed in the conference.

“Now that the attendance is restricted to only Founders, there’s no other choice but for the other people to accompany the Founders as bodyguards. Haine-san, please take that seat!” (Karen)

“Wait please. This is just...” (Haine)

My gaze went to the other problem -to the dark skin girl, Doraha.

“...What is it?” (Doraha)

Karen-san and I look silently at her.

She has been attached deeply to Yorishiro since the time she left the Underworld Country, and she doesn’t leave her side.

To pull apart Doraha from Yorishiro...

And to leave her at the outskirts of the city...

“It feels terrible, as if I was taking away the mother of a small girl and abandoning her outside!” (Haine)

“ ...”

It looks like Karen-san felt the same. She had a serious expression all around.

Now then, what should we do really?

As expected, separating Doraha from Yorishiro would definitely hit my conscience, so let's decide on Doraha going then?

According to Karen-san, she has fighting ability that is plenty satisfying to act as the bodyguard.

"Please wait."

At that moment, the very person that has to decide a bodyguard appeared - Yorishiro.

"Before beginning the Five Founders Conference, there's one proposition I want to make." (Yorishiro)

"A proposition, you say?" (Shiva)

Moreover, the one who spoke was not us, but Shiva.

"What's that about a proposition? We have consented on the Five Founders Conference and we are even providing our city as the assembly hall; don't you understand how unprecedentedly gracious we are being here? You probably want to talk about increasing the number of bodyguards, but I absolutely will not accept more than one. It is most likely just a plan to have a spy slip in to dig out the details of our city though—" (Shiva)

"No, the thing I want to increase is not bodyguards." (Yorishiro)

Interrupting the repetitive talk of Shiva, Yorishiro said this.

"What I want to increase is the number of participants in this conference. In other words, a Founder." (Yorishiro)

"Hah?"

"In this time's conference, I want it not to be a Five Founders Conference, but a Six Founders Conference." (Yorishiro)

""""""Eeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeh?!!""""""

"Let there be hot-bloodedness!" (Enou)

The sudden utterance of Yorishiro made the many people there raise their voice in surprise.

"The person here, Kuromiya Haine, is..." (Yorishiro)

Is what Yorishiro says as she places both hands on my shoulders, and then, she presses her boobs stealthily on my back in a way that the people around wouldn't notice.

"Is a person that can control the rare dark divine power. What I am saying is that I want to have him participate in the conference with the same speech right as a Founder." (Yorishiro)

"Darkness, you say?!" (Shiva)

No no no no no no!

What are you doing throwing explosive statements one after the other, Yorishiro-san?

"Karen-san." (Yorishiro)

"Y-Yes?!" (Karen)

Ignoring the confusion of everyone, Yorishiro continues speaking.

"You will accompany Haine-san as his bodyguard. I will have Doraha protect me." (Yorishiro)

"Yes, but is that okay?" (Karen)

"It is okay. ♥" (Yorishiro)

Even if you say that cutely...

At any rate, the problem about not being able to decide between Karen-san, Doraha, and I, has been resolved by having all of us participate...right?

"I don't mind."

At this moment, we received support fire from the Earth Founder-sama.

"We have a crazy big debt with that Nii-chan there, ya see. That's why, I know about how big of a vessel this Nii-chan has. If he be in the conference, it would give me peace of mind-sa ne."

"Let there be hot-bloodedness." (Enou)

"Looks like the Earth and Fire are okay with it, in that case, this one also okay with it." (Azul)

It looks like the Founders are steadily accepting?!

I thought that the Wind Founder would be vehemently against it in response, but...

“Do as you please.” (Shiva)

He unexpectedly stepped back easily.

“Well then, the Founders and bodyguards, I will be welcoming you to our land. The elevator will be a tight fit, but I won’t have you complain, got it? We have two unforeseen guests after all.” (Shiva)

We finally take a step into the last of the five major cities, the Wind capital, Rudras Metropolis.

But why is it we were trying to get here?

The reason why I couldn’t remember it at this moment was because it was all taken away by the show displayed by Yorishiro.

It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that the flow of the situation was completely in her control.

As expected of the rumored strongest Light Founder and the Light Goddess that has been constantly putting pressure on the four Base Elements for 1,600 years.

Thanks to that, it could be said that all events in this occasion have been utilized by Yorishiro.

With this conference, she is trying to use all the five churches to find the Mother Monsters, and connect that to their subjugation.

Chapter 142: Plan of the Fortune Princess

At first, we tried to find the Mother Monsters.

But the information was so little that we couldn't even find a starting point for our search.

There, with the desire of finding new clues regarding the Mother Monsters and increasing our fighting force, we decided on making contact with the wind hero.

But it seems like we didn't even have information regarding the wind hero.

The one who came out at that moment was Yorishiro. Using a secret technique called Five Founders Conference, she succeeded in summoning the Wind Church.

But with the call of a conference, there's the need for a topic of discussion. And it has to be one big enough to make all five churches that essentially rule the world to gather.

The topic Yorishiro used was the Mother Monsters.

At first, I was like 'Hm?'.

The plan of finding the Mother Monsters has once again resurfaced and with a chance of actually being possible.

This Mother Monster subjugation that I had planned on dealing with on my own at first, has begun to involve the whole world.

My mouth can't say anything towards the sturdy determination of Yorishiro in eradicating the monsters from the surface world, but I couldn't do anything but be surprised by the political power of Yorishiro who is able to make all of it possible.

She is already not in the realm of simply being the incarnation of the Light Goddess, hasn't she already climbed to being the strongest existence?

But even so...

(...Are you still angry?)

We had already entered the Wind capital, Rudras Metropolis, and we were in the middle of moving through the city with an ethereal-powered car.

It was a limousine type of car and possesses enough space for even us two who have been added to the group, the inside is also luxurious, and it was plenty good for the nation-level guests of honor to ride.

But the real intention of the Wind Church for preparing such a car for us, rather than it being to welcome the guests, it is more like they wanted to properly keep in check the people in order to not have them do whatever they wanted inside their territory.

(Hey, Haine-san. Answer me please.)

Inside that car, there was a voice repeatedly calling to me inside my mind.

Without the need to use air as the intermediary, it is something that rides the waves of the soul, a voice that can only be heard by the people that possess the soul of a God.

(Haine-san...you already don't want to talk to me, right? It is so sad. I feel like crying.) (Yorishiro)

(No no no no! I was just thinking about something!) (Haine)

I quickly follow up on Yorishiro who was eagerly talking to me in the mind channel.

The reason why she is not talking to me in the flesh was because she was considering the many people inside the car. This woman has a lot of secrets after all.

“Karen-nee-chan, Karen-nee-chan! Look outside the window-dasu! There be a lot of super long chimneys lined up-dasu!!” (Sasae)

“They are not chimneys...but smelting furnaces. But this is the first time I have seen it in such a large scale!” (Karen)

“Uhyaaaa, I thought that we were the ones who were the most forbearing in regards to ethereal, but it looks like I will have to rethink that.” (Celestis)

“There’s always a top to the top. Keep that in mind, water idol woman.”
(Mirack)

“Why are you talking so high-and-mighty, fire she-male?” (Celestis)

While warmly watching over the conversation of the heroes, I continue the secret talk with Yorishiro.

(...Well, it is true that I am angry though. Why did you do such a reckless twist like that?) (Haine)

(Twist, you say?) (Yorishiro)

(About having me participate in the Five Founders Conference. Even if it was to have me accompany, that’s way too conspicuous, don’t you think? You even publicized my dark powers.) (Haine)

If I wanted to infiltrate the Wind capital, there’s plenty of methods I could have used.

But to think that of all things, I would be participating at an equal standing to that of a Founder, no matter how I think about it, it gives me the shivers.

(Ara, that’s not good. Making a big appeal of your existence is what will fulfill my objective after all.) (Yorishiro)

You are still plotting something after all this?!

What? What is it she is trying to stir up by revealing my existence?

(It is to meet that person once again.) (Yorishiro)

(That person?) (Haine)

(The Wind God, Quasar.) (Yorishiro)

...

The ruler of this Rudras Metropolis is the Wind Church; and the ruler of that Wind Church is the Wind God.

As of now, it is someone that I haven’t seen a shadow of its figure since the time I was unsealed. It was truly like air.

(The original objective of Haine-san and the others to meet the wind people

was because you had the faint hopes of obtaining information regarding the Wind Mother Monster, but...) (Yorishiro)

Well, yeah, that's right.

(If it's Quasar-san, it definitely knows about it.) (Yorishiro)

Well, yeah, that's right.

It is one of the very culprits that created Mother Monsters after all. Even if it doesn't know the specific location like with Nova, it should at least know its form and what traits it has.

(But that person is one that has the most lack of presence within the six Gods of Creation. Even if you try to search for it normally, you wouldn't be able to find it.) (Yorishiro)

I feel like this time everything is like that.

...Ah, no, wait. Maybe that's why?

Is that the reason why she went so far to even set up the Five Founders Conference to infiltrate the Wind capital?

(For us five Gods -including me-the base, where the church that worships us is in, is a special place. If we were to enter its territory, we should be able to grab some sort of clue.) (Yorishiro)

It is true. Now that I think back about it, the Gods until now: Nova, Coacervate, and Mantle have all appeared when we arrived at their base cities.

(But that's not enough.) (Yorishiro)

(Eh?)

(The other party not only possesses an incredibly light presence within the four Base Elements, even within the six Gods of Creation, it is on a whole level of its own. Even if we were to go to a place where it is likely to be, it is naive to think that it would come out!) (Yorishiro)

...Aren't you wording it pretty harshly there?

(In order to search for something that we can't find even when searching, the best way is to have the other side come to us. To do that, spreading bait is the

most effective way!) (Yorishiro)

(...Are you talking about me?) (Haine)

Bait, you say.

Is that why you made such a big show of my dark powers in front of so many people?

In order to have a God that is like air, who can be anywhere, and can't be seen or touched, to hear it.

(It looks like you yourself haven't noticed it, but for the four Base Elements, you are an existence they can't ignore, Dark God Entropy.) (Yorishiro)

She calls me by my God name.

(The dark power has the absolute ability of erasing earth, water, wind, and fire elements. In reality, the four Base Elements should have been completely under your power. Them beating you at the battle of Gods is serving as the core of their shallow pride.) (Yorishiro)

(In essence, the one who defeated me was only you though, Light Goddess Inflation.) (Haine)

To tease her, I also spoke her God name, but the response didn't come.

What?

(...Uwu.) (Yorishiro)

(Uwaa, that's not it, that's not it! It is not like I am holding a grudge for that time! Don't cry!) (Haine)

But in order to find the Mother Monsters, we have to unify the power of the humans and lure out the last Basic Element God.

To be able to bring out many results from one action is the very definition of a tactician.

In the time I was sleeping, the one who was the most influenced by humans might have been her.

This God to God conversation we are having right now, there might be someone else listening into it.

Is that also her aim?

Chapter 143: Meeting begins

In the time we were doing all that, the limousine had led us to the assembly hall for the Five Founders Conference.

...Uhm, I am also here so, is it more accurate to say Six Founders Conference?

It is complicated, so I will leave it at five. At any rate, the place where we were led to was the headquarters of the Wind Church, the Grand Wind Workshop.

Until we were led there, we did have the chance of moving through the inside, but mysteriously, there was not a single instance where we encountered anyone passing by.

There was indeed the presence of people, but they didn't enter our field of vision even once.

I felt like I was being reminded of how thorough the Wind Church is with their secrecy policy.

In the round table prepared, one unknown man sits down where the five Founders sit.

How pressuring!

The heroes also stood at the back of each of their Founders to protect them, and the conference took form.

"Well then, first of all, I want to give my thanks to the Founders that have responded to my call and have gathered." (Yorishiro)

Is what Yorishiro opened with.

An ellipsis.

While giving a basic explanation of the Mother Monsters, the Five Founder Conference continues.

"...In short, as long as we defeat those Mother Monsters, monsters will be eradicated from this world, right?" (Azul)

The Water Founder was showing a merchant-like gaze that didn't allow a single oversight.

"Quite the splendid thing. Because of those things, the ships get sunk along with their cargo, and there's also the danger for the ones on board. They are truly a bunch that are only detrimental with just appearing." (Azul)

He is saying the same thing as my father.

"Let there be hot-bloodedness." (Enou)

"Eh?"

My interest was piqued at what the Fire Founder said.

"Let there be hot-bloodedness." (Enou)

"...Yeah, that's right but, with all the Fire Church?" (Mirack)

"Let there be hot-bloodedness." (Enou)

"Are you saying you are going to go that far for us?" (Mirack)

"Let there be hot-bloodedness." (Enou)

"No way! We truly appreciate it!!" (Mirack)

According to what the Fire Founder said through Mirack, he will be spreading an exclusive search network with the Fire Church that has obtained the information of the Immortal Phoenix.

Hereafter, the moment a Phoenix-like bird is seen, it will be immediately reported to all stations through the nation, and when the report arrives, they will have a system that will allow them to move promptly to the scene, or so he says.

"In our Earth capital, there was a tree named 'Great Pillar-sama'. It gave birth to convenient things called Golems, and it be respected by the people. But one day, they suddenly attacked the people. We learned it be a Mother Monster after we fought and defeated it-sa ne."

"That means the Earth Mother Monster has already fallen, and the remaining ones are the water, wind, and fire. If we were to defeat them, we can bid farewell to monsters for eternity." (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro breathes in and stands up from her seat. She then slams both of her hands onto the round table.

“There’s a variety of areas we can see it from. Just like how the Water Founder-sama said just now, the economic losses we face because of the monsters, who knows how much it would be? Putting it in other words, they are the very blight that festers humanity’s growth.” (Yorishiro)

The other Founders kept silent and listen.

“Just how much unnecessary energy have we expended in fighting with monsters? If we had directed that energy in something constructive, how much could we have developed? There’s also no need to say that there have been many precious lives lost because of monsters. For us, monsters are...” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro temporarily pauses her words here.

“...A big threat with no benefits. There should be no one who would lose anything in their eradication. This is the time when we five churches should link hands to change the world greatly!” (Yorishiro)

“Let there be hot-bloodedness!!” (Enou)

“Yeah, that be exactly right.”

“If there’s profit, boarding it is what makes one a merchant.” (Azul)

It was slightly unexpected how easy it was for the Founders to approve of what Yorishiro said.

Because just like how the monsters are only tools for the Gods to get fame, I thought that monsters were necessary for the church.

The monsters that are a threat to humans are subjugated by the church.

And due to this, humans are grateful to the church. Their worth is acknowledged.

For them, that’s a grace that should be hard to let go of...but it looks like that wasn’t the case.

“Honestly speaking, every single human in this world is already fed up with

those monsters. Even if the church protects the people from monsters -leaving aside a century ago-in the present day, it has already lost all novelty, and it has become something 'natural to be protected'. And yet, monsters are still the same threatening existence since those hundred years. So, the cost to profit ratio has long since surpassed its worth." (Azul)

It looks like the circumstances vary from humans and Gods.

And this had been explained by the Water Founder in the lenses of a businessman.

"Hence, I am totally in favor of eradicating the monsters! I have already heard about the Water Mother Monster from my daughter—oops, I mean, our hero. The lack of information is a straining factor, but we intend to investigate little by little." (Azul)

"As you see fit." (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro who has become the speaker of this conference gave her words to him.

Looks like the meeting is going well for now.

"Well then..." (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro's gaze is directed at the place where she hasn't faced to until now.

Being sit on the seat of a Founder, yet, has not said a single word since the beginning of the conference; a man that was like air.

"Wind Founder-sama, I want to hear you opinion in this." (Yorishiro)

"..."

The silence continues.

"As a Founder, it wouldn't be strange to be in possession of a lot of beneficial information. If it's you, don't you have any information regarding the Wind Mother Monster of your same element? Even if it's only a clue regarding it..." (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro was pressing him tenaciously, and Shiva stopped it with his hand.

The wind that had been covered with a veil of mysteries.

The God, the church, the city, the Founder, and the hero as well; all the things that were as if transparent, were beginning to show themselves...

“First of all, I want to ask something.” (Shiva)

Chapter 144: The Wind Controversialist

“...Go ahead.” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro readily consents, but it was impossible to erase the cautiousness in her voice.

“First of all, regarding these Mother Monster things you have been talking about. Is there proof that they are really out there?” (Shiva)

“?!”

“Earth, Water, and Fire as well, it pains me to see how easily you are to get swayed by such delusions. There’s no evidence in what this girl is saying. There’s nothing to put my trust into.” (Shiva)

“There be evidence-sa ne.”

The one who objected was the Earth Founder Obaa-san.

“There be no doubt the Great Pillar-sama that appeared in our city was givin’ birth to monsters. On top of that, cuz of its super size and power, it be fitting to be called the boss of the monsters.”

“But there’s nothing to corroborate the theory of Mother Monsters. In the first place, who was the one who brought out this theory of yours? How did you obtain this information?” (Shiva)

Because of that question, sounds disappeared from the place.

No one could answer.

The painful silence continued.

“...It was me.” (Haine)

I had no choice but to speak.

“I was the one who obtained the information regarding the Mother Monsters. I told the Light Founder and the heroes.” (Haine)

Shiva’s gaze is directed at me.

Those eyes were not showing any friendly color in it.

“...So it was you. From the moment I saw you, I thought you were a shady man, but that shadiness has increased by one shade more. There’s a lot of things I want to ask, but let’s start with where you heard about such a fairy tale like that of Mother Monsters?” (Shiva)

“I can’t say.” (Haine)

There’s no way I would be able to tell a human that I heard about this from Water God Coacervate and the Fire God Nova, not even by mistake.

“I was told about it with that kind of promise between us after all.” (Haine)

I had no choice but to cover it in such a way.

In the first place, I was thinking about dealing with the Mother Monsters on my own, so I didn’t prepare a single thing for situations where I had to explain myself.

That Yorishiro...she involved me in such a development without even telling me beforehand after all.

“Reeks of suspicious. Well then, another question.” (Shiva)

“Is there still more?” (Haine)

“Of course. Just what kind of authority do you have to sit there? At that seat where only the five Founders of the five churches are allowed to sit on.” (Shiva)

He does have a point.

I myself want to ask that too.

“What the Light Founder said before was also weird. Being on the same seat as us Founders just because of a reason like that is way too abnormal. But what was more surprising was that the only one who is pointing this out is me. Are the eyes of the Earth, Water, and Fire hollow?” (Shiva)

No really, I totally agree with you.

As I thought, isn’t Yorishiro acting without thinking about the consequences?

“If ya keep saying those stupid things, I be cutting both your hands and legs off.”

“Wa?!” (Haine)

I get surprised by the razor-sharp voice.

The Earth Founder Obaa-san had her eyes shining with a dangerous light, as if showing us a glimpse of her past as a hero.

“Brat, careful with what ya say.”

“...Are you talking about me?” (Shiva)

No need to even ask, the Obaa-san was glaring daggers at Shiva!

“Our Earth Church ya see, has been saved by that Nii-chan there. A crisis never seen before. After doing so much for us, there be any other reason needed to believe?”

At the fight with the giant Grandma Wood at Ishtar Blaze, a large amount of people were assimilated, and it was trying to trap the people into an infinite sleep; I participated in that fight as well.

In the first place, the reason why that tree rampaged was because of my praise to the Mother Earth God Mantle which escalated things.

To take responsibility for that, I had no choice but to stop it.

That fight was showing its effect here as well.

“Let there be hot-bloodedness.” (Enou)

Is what the Fire Founder said.

In the past, there was the Fire Cow Phalaris settled at the vicinity of Muspelheim. The ones who defeated that giant monster were Karen-san and Mirack who had fixed their broken friendship.

And with that friendship fixed, there’s a person that has taken that fixed friendship to heart as well.

“This one...has not seen Haine-kun fight.” (Azul)

Even the Water Founder joins.

“But there was a small incident in our city as well, you see. In that incident, this one’s prided girl and the kind ladies that were there by chance managed to deal with it, but after that, he was the one who dealt with the other messy stuff.” (Azul)

The Great Sea Dragon turmoil that was set up by the underhanded God Coacervate at Hydra Ville.

After having Coacervate himself retire, I did a big cleaning of the Water Church in order to sweep out the wiles he had created.

That was the time when I first met the Water Founder.

“And so, this one has decided on ‘trusting’ him. For a merchant, trust is the most important of all. There are times when the substantial wealth is infinitely formed from the formless trust. That’s why merchants can’t be crude on trust. Once there’s trust, you can’t betray them by no means, and once you have given trust, you can’t just pull it back at a moment’s notice.” (Azul)

Why is it that such advocacies are coming one after the other?

Founders are supposed to be politicians of sorts, that’s why, there’s the need to make dry decisions as well.

“This is the boon of Haine-san’s natural virtue-desu wa.” (Yorishiro)

I am not taking advantage of something like that, Yorishiro.

I feel like Karen-san and her friends are pumping their fists like crazy in victory. Really, all sides are boisterous.

“I see. What it means is that you bastards have fallen for this man’s strength, and because of that, you believe in the utterances of this man.” (Shiva)

The Founder Shiva stands up from his seat.

“Then, I will be relying on him too, on that man’s strength. Whether it is worthy of trust, that is.” (Shiva)

“Could it be...you are planning on having a match? Haine-san against you?” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro asks in surprise, and Shiva answers smoothly.

“There’s no better way to measure someone than in fighting. Once they both face a battle with their lives at stake, you can understand everything about the other party. It doesn’t only measure strength, it measures the very depths of the heart too.” (Shiva)

“Fine.” (Haine)

I immediately reply and stand up at the same time.

In the first place, it is not in my character to be sitting in such a flamboyant seat like this.

“I will be accepting that bout. But there’s a problem in the opponent being you. In the event that the Founder is heavily injured, it would be terrible. Isn’t it at times like this where the strongest fighter of the Church -the hero-should be standing on the stage?” (Haine)

This is consideration and, at the same time, a gamble.

With a sound reason, I will pull out the wind hero that has not shown its figure yet.

The Mother Monster and Quasar are a problem as well, but the very existence of the Wind Church is ominous.

It makes me want to drag out as much information as possible.

“Hero huh. Hmph, then there’s no problem. The wind hero is already right in front of you.” (Shiva)

“What?” (Haine)

“It is I, Shiva.” (Shiva) <Lol, I had to.>

The Founder Shiva made a daring smile as he once again spoke.

“Wind hero, Toreido Shiva. I am the Wind Founder as well as the wind hero.” (Shiva)

Chapter 145: A king and hero

“You hold two posts?!” (Haine)

A Founder and also a hero, that is the one managing the Wind Church, Toreido Shiva.

The hero that is originally the strongest fighting force of the church, and the Founder that is originally the one standing at the top of the church as its leader; the two will not overlap by no means, thus, it is impossible for one person to take both jobs at the same time.

That’s why there’s the Earth Founder and earth hero; Water Founder and water hero; Fire Founder and fire hero; and the Light Founder and light hero.

But in the Wind side, there’s only one.

And that’s what’s increasing the strangeness in Toreido Shiva.

“...Eh? Really? Isn’t a hero a title that only girls get?” (Karen)

“I also thought for sure that the wind hero would be a girl.” (Celestis)

The heroes at the back were also letting out voices of bewilderment.

“Have you agreed now? The strongest authority and strongest fighting power of the Wind nation is me. No need to hold back. Go ahead and come at me.”
(Shiva)

“If you go as far as saying that much...” (Haine)

I was the one who challenged him.

I should stand and fight him proudly.

And so, we once again moved from the meeting room and arrived at a place that seems to be some sort of competition field.

It doesn’t change the fact that it is still inside the Wind Church’s headquarters, but there’s no roof, and directly below the sky screened by black clouds, there’s a circular-shaped ring.

“This place is normally used by the Kazama stealth corps as a real combat training space. The fight will be a one on one. The use of divine tools and divine power is allowed; a rule where everything goes. Any objections?” (Shiva)

“None.” (Haine)

Sparks were flying between Shiva and I. The fight has already begun.

“Good. Well then, I will be changing into my fighting outfit, so please wait for a while.” (Shiva)

Saying this, Shiva disappears to the inside of the building.

At the place, there’s the heroes and Founders. And there’s also a few wind guides —which are most likely actually just surveillance.

This place that has been explained to us as a training space has not a single combatant visibly training in it. I can really see how thorough they are with their secrecy.

“Uhm...what are the people that train here doing now?” (Haine)

I try asking the guides knowing it was a futile effort, and the only thing they replied with was a silent nod.

Even the guides had their face hidden with a mask, and going this far, it even made me feel suspicious.

And on the other side, when I try looking at our camp...

“...Is something the matter, Karen-san?” (Haine)

It looks like Karen-san was not in a good humor.

Why? In this short conversation we have had, was there something that would affect negatively the mood of Karen-san?

“The hero alliance plan is over!” (Karen)

“Eeeeh?” (Haine)

For some reason she declared this loudly?

“Because isn’t that right?! I never heard about the wind hero being a man! Who was the one who said all heroes are girls?!” (Karen)

“It can’t be helped, right? The people of the wind are secretive, and the identity of the hero was also unknown. But a male hero? Nai wa~.” (Celestis)

Celestis begins to complain as well.

What’s with this atmosphere? This eruption of discontent in the air.

“Adding the wind hero as a comrade, the plan was to complete the hero alliance, but it has ended up in discarding that idea. I hope I can have your understanding in this.” (Karen)

“Agree! Celes-tan agrees!” (Celestis)

Celestis agreed energetically.

“W-why it be so bad that it be a male hero?” (Sasae)

It couldn’t be helped, so Sasae-chan turned to being the straight-man here.

“It is obvious! My secret objective was to gather all five heroes and create an idol unit and dance together, but thanks to that bastard, it all went down the drain! It is on the level that I want to file a lawsuit!” (Celestis)

“Ya had such a secret desire-dasu ka?! The most I know is folk dancing-dasu yo?!” (Sasae)

Treating a misunderstanding as a breach in contract would only trouble the Wind Church.

“Ah, right. Maybe it is the pattern where at first he looked like a man, but he was actually a she?!” (Celestis)

“We have plenty enough of that with Mirack-chan, Celestis-chan...” (Karen)

“I have not done a single thing to have my gender misunderstood though?!” (Mirack)

The heroes are feisty no matter where they are.

Well, judging by the physique of the Wind Founder and hero Shiva, there’s no doubt he is a man, or rather, if he were a woman, the disgustingness would jump to max.

“Let there be hot-bloodedness.” (Enou)

Compared to the hero side, the Founder side was -as expected-really well-mannered, waiting for the beginning of the fight.

And then...

“I have made you wait.” (Shiva)

Shiva who had finished changing, had returned to the competition area.

From the ceremonial dress that showed the majesty and holiness of a Founder, to the fighting clothes that emphasize easy movement.

It is lightweight and makes it somewhat easy to see the bodyline.

“That chest...there’s no doubt he is a man!” (Karen)

“I feel relieved, and at the same time, it pisses me off...” (Celestis)

Karen-san and Celestis were still at it.

“Hm-dasu? Look-dasu, those knives that be hangin’ at both side of his waist. That be the Wind God’s tool?” (Sasae)

“But it has a weird shape to call it a knife.” (Mirack)

On the other hand, the other two were calmly analysing him.

It is just as Mirack says, there’s one knife on the left and right of his waist, and were sheathed in the scabbards that are hanging from his belt.

If he is going to be using those, his specialty should be extremely close-quarters combat. I feel as if I lower my guard, I will become mince meat in the blink of an eye.

I also stand on the circular stage; and so, two men face each other.

“...Well then, let’s have you show me in detail, the true strength of the dark man that all Founders praise.” (Shiva)

“You as well. You properly understand here that testing someone also means you are being tested, right?” (Haine)

But it is unexpectedly my first time fighting a human vs human battle seriously.

The group of heroes and Founders were spectating the stage from the outsides of it.

“Anyone is fine, can someone please give the beginning signal?” (Shiva)

The Fire Founder stands up at the call of Shiva and speaks.

“Let there be hot-bloodedness!” (Enou)

The flag has been lowered.

At the same time, Shiva unsheathes the knives at his waist.

...Hm? Those are...not knives. Even if they look similar to knives, they have a different form from it... What's that? Are those cylinders?

“Well then, taste them well. Our Wind God's tool, the bullet of this Wind Twin Guns, Fuuma Koutarou!” (Shiva)

Chapter 146: Phantom Bullet

That was something I had seen for the first time in my life.

Aside from the handle, everything else was hidden by the scabbard so I couldn't see it, and due to that, it made an optical illusion as if it was a knife because of the length of the scabbard itself.

But once it was taken out from its scabbard, what appeared was something that wasn't similar to a knife.

I would describe them as cylinders.

The body of the weapon was practically perpendicular to the knife's handle, and had the form of an L.

Just what in the world is that? How does that thing even attack?

While I was in confusion, that cylinder, the side that had a hole was pointed at me.

I instinctively felt that it was dangerous.

Bang!

From the cylinder, a thunderous sound like that of an explosion was emitted, and that happened practically at the same time as I twisted my body.

A sharp pain ran through one side of my ears.

The distance between Shiva and I is as good as saying we are on both corners of the stage, and yet, I was attacked in that distance.

"Haine-san?!" (Karen)

"What happened?!" (Mirack)

Karen-san and the others who were spectating from the outside raised their voice in surprise.

I reflexively touched the ear where the pain was coming from, but fortunately, my ear was still there.

The strength of it was enough to make me think it could rip out my whole ear.

I was relieved to confirm it was still okay, but at the same time, I could feel blood sliding down it.

So a part of it has been gouged out huh.

“So you dodged by reflex. If you can’t do at least that much, it wouldn’t be fun.” (Shiva)

Is what Shiva said as he once again directed the hole of that cylinder towards me.

Before thinking, I could feel it.

Being at a position where I can see that hole is incredibly bad!

Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang!

Something came at me at blinding speed again as the thunderous sounds rang, and I could feel them passing by my surroundings.

Of course, if I hadn’t perceived the danger and thrown my body to the ground, it would have passed through my body without doubt.

There’s one thing I have understood.

Shiva is shooting something at me from that hole of the cylinder.

At any rate, I have to move around. If I stay in one place, that in itself will be dangerous.

And if I stay at long range, I will just be one-sidedly attacked. First, I should run at full-speed, and approach to a position where I can fight back.

“So that’s the move you will take. Well, that must be your only choice though.” (Shiva)

Shiva surprisingly allows my approach easily.

He receives my punch with the cylinder.

“...What’s...that?” (Haine)

Now that I look at it again from up close, that mysterious cylinder shone faintly from all around it, showing that it was metallic. Its overall length is, as I thought, that of a small weapon on the level of a knife.

I still don't know if it's okay to call it a weapon though.

"...Is that an ethereal device?" (Haine)

Or maybe a weapon that utilizes ethereal?

"Impossible!"

I heard the voice of someone from the spectator seats.

"The use of ethereal weapons is expressly forbidden by the consensus of all five Churches! Are you telling me someone on the standing of a Founder is breaking that?!" (Azul)

"Don't jump to conclusions. These Wind Twin Guns, Fuuma Koutarou, are without doubt Wind God tools." (Shiva)

Wind Twin Guns...

"The mechanism itself, I used the ethereal devices as reference, but the energy source is without doubt the power of the Wind God. Adding a mineral on the grip that resonates and amplifies the Wind God power, the user can pour divine power from their hand to power it up. The divine power that flows into the gun barrel will enter one of the chambers, and will compress drastically. Pulling the trigger when in that state, once the hammer hits it, the compressed air will explode at once and will pass through the thin muzzle to be released. That is what the Wind Twin Guns, Fuuma Koutarou, give birth to." (Shiva)

I couldn't understand what he was saying at all.

"Even if what's shot is air, it goes at the speed of sound. Even the shockwave it creates has quite the power. Moreover, it has Wind God power mixed in it, so once it hits the mark, it can easily blow away the feeble body of a human. The reason why you were able to evade it was because your good instincts allowed you to predict it. With just that alone, I can understand why the Founders sing praises of you but..." (Shiva)

I was suddenly kicked away from our lock of fist and gun.

This is bad. Opening distance will allow that gun to—!

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

“Just how long can you continue the desperate evasion?! Even when a bow and my Wind Twin Guns are the same projectile weapons, there’s a jarring difference. Since it uses a mix of air and divine power as bullets, it means that there’s no end! Even if you continue running away, the ending that you will be facing will be the same, you know! The ending where you die, that is!” (Shiva)

You plan on killing me?!

It is as Shiva said, even if a bow is a projectile weapon just like that thing called gun, it is way different.

I am the son of a hunter, so I am familiar with the bow, that’s why I can understand it even more. That the most fearsome difference about it -more fearsome than its inexhaustible projectiles-is the rapid-fire it possesses.

In the time a bow shoots one arrow, that gun would have shot at least 5-6 times in succession. Moreover, from both the right and left hand.

On top of that, you have to use both hands to prepare the bow, but that gun thing can be used with one hand, and that’s exactly why two can be utilized at the same time.

With just that, the number of shots is doubled.

It is so hectic, I am already seeing limits in evading it all.

“What’s wrong?! You pup of the Founders, is this all you got? Then, I will have to make you pay for disappointing me!!” (Shiva)

After all this, the rate of his rapid-fire increased once again.

This time, the way the bullets were being spread was precise, and it was made as to not allow me an easy approach.

The only method to turnaround this situation is to get in close range, but with me being pinned at a set distance—!

“Too slow! With this, it is my win!!” (Shiva)

Piling up evasion after evasion, my posture had crumbled like crazy, and at that moment, several air bullets continued flying.

It is impossible to evade.

Then, there's only one thing I can do.

"[Dark Matter, Set]!" (Haine)

Matching it with my sweeping arm, I form a barrier of dark matter.

The air bullets that were said to be created by mixing Wind God power were easily blocked by the black barrier and dispersed.

Earth, water, fire, and wind are powerless against the power of darkness.

"...That's..."

"..."

This is bad. To think I would be forced to use my dark matter against a human.

That means that Shiva's ability is that much good, but I didn't want to use this way too dangerous power on humans.

The lifeless monsters and the annoying Nova and Coacervate are an exception.

But it was not against a God or a monster, it was against a human.

"...So it really was you." (Shiva)

"What?" (Haine)

Shiva said something. It was low, so I reflexively push out my ear.

"Don't play dumb. It is you right, Entropy? Who would be able to use the dark matter aside from you?" (Shiva)

"Wa?!" (Haine)

He knows about the dark matter?! Moreover, my God name?!

Just who in the world—?!

"It is me, Dark God Entropy." (Shiva)

The Wind Founder and hero Shiva said:

"I am the Wind God, Quasar." (Shiva)

Chapter 147: As a king and as a hero

FGWind God, Quasar.

Shiva in front of me certainly did say this. From a completely normal-looking human, the name of a God was said.

Normally, it would be something hard to believe, but there's no way a normal human would know my name as the Dark God and even know about the dark matter.

Then, that means, that man is one of the four Basic Element Gods.

The Wind God Quasar.

And a God having the form of a human means...

(You also incarnated as a human, Quasar?) (Haine)

"What? You are going through the trouble of saying that through the soul wave transmission? Well fine, I will play along." (Shiva)

The place where we are facing off and the place where Karen-san and the others are spectating is quite a few ways away, but this is just to be safe.

Him calling himself Quasar was also in a low voice, so I think they didn't hear that though.

(Now that I think about it, I heard the transmission a while ago too. Your talk partner was the Light Founder, right? That means she is the incarnation of the Light Goddess Inflation huh. For the two poles to hold hands, that's a fearsome situation for us four Basic Elements.) (Quasar)

The objective of that soul transmission was to lure out Quasar who we didn't know where he was, but to think he was hiding so close to us.

So he was silently watching while in the same car as us huh.

(With that transmission, I learned about the identity of both of you, but I am a wary one you see. In order to gain a more certain belief of it, I set up this fight. And just as planned, you used dark matter. With this, it is certain. You are the Dark God Entropy.) (Quasar)

(The one and only.) (Entropy)

There's no point in playing dumb here.

I revealed my name; the name of the soul inside of me.

(Hmph, so you finally woke up. How did it feel waking up from a 1,600 year sleep? I am truly exalted, you know! This is the moment I have always been waiting for after all!) (Quasar)

(I don't know what's making you excited, but I am not in that good of a mood. The more I learned about you four Base Elements, the worse my mood got.) (Entropy)

Fire God Nova, Water God Coacervate, Mother Earth God Mantle, Wind God Quasar; the four Gods that were categorized as four Base Elements were originally Gods that were supposed to help out the two pole Gods, who are their superiors, in their work of creation.

But because of the Battle of Gods that occurred at the Genesis era, the Dark God that was supposed to be the top had been defeated and sealed, and due to this, they grew impudent.

Misunderstanding that they themselves are the rulers of the world, they acted as they pleased.

In the time I as the Dark God Entropy came back, I learned about the sins that they had committed.

And so, I decided. I won't let the four Base Elements get involved in this world anymore.

Since the time I incarnated as a human and met the Base Element Gods, I have crushed each of their acts.

At first, I had no such intentions, but I have done it three times in a row already.

And now, the last Base Element God has appeared.

Is this guy also going to walk the same path as his brethrens?

(...But you are slightly different from the others, Quasar. You are the first one

of the four Base Elements to incarnate as a human.) (Entropy)

There's still the possibility that he is cloaking himself with the ability of a monster though, like the time with Coacervate.

(...Nova, Coacervate, Mantle; those three huh. Those guys are idiots.)
(Quasar)

Is what Quasar spits out about his brethrens.

(In the battle at the Genesis era, we defeated you, Dark God Entropy. The King of Gods, you who are supposed to be the absolute God. But that was simply because the Light Goddess who held an advantage was at our side. And most importantly, you gave us the win. That is exactly the origin of the madness in this world.) (Quasar)

(...What are you talking about?) (Entropy)

(Don't play dumb. Because of you backing off, Nova and Coacervate got on a high horse. They misunderstood that they themselves are the summit of the world, and they didn't even try to hide how stupid they were. It was like watching a dog running wild.) (Quasar)

(You aren't mincing any words there. They are supposed to be your Base Element brethrens, right?) (Entropy)

(Entropy, let me put this out first. That is the biggest insult for me. In the future, don't lump me in the same category as those pieces of shit.) (Quasar)

Judging from his tone, I could tell the disdain he had from the bottom of his heart towards Nova and Coacervate.

It is transmitted from the soul waves without passing through the body, so it is even harder to hide how one really feels.

(Then, let's hear it, Wind God Quasar. What is it that's different from you and them?) (Entropy)

I ask.

Because of the discovery of a new truth, the fight had been enveloped in a completely different veil.

A Wind Founder, a wind hero, and a Wind God; seriously, what a greedy man. This is the first time I have met a person that monopolizes so many positions to this extent. However, him incarnating into a human must mean that...he is planning on doing something that needs him to go this far.

(Can you please tell me? The reason why you incarnated as a human. To the point that you would even go and become the Wind Church's top which worships you. There's no way there's nothing, right?) (Entropy)

(Isn't there something you should be asking before that? You want to know, right? The location of the Mother Monster. You were talking about that with Inflation, right?" (Shiva)

(That's right. But in order to ask that, I need to know first just what is direction you are facing at. Quasar, are you an ally of humans, or are you an enemy?) (Entropy)

'Kukukukuku', a laugh that felt as if he couldn't hold it in was reverberating in the soul wave transmission -the voice of Quasar.

(In the end, that's all you are, Entropy. You only understand me to that extend. It is a matter of course. For an absolute God like you, I am just a low class God that has no worth in your eyes. I am not even in your consideration.) (Shiva)

(Why are you suddenly going into self-loathing?) (Entropy)

(Well then, let me tell you. I am the ally of no one. Not human, or God. Whether it be in the battle of Gods, or in the time when I destroyed the first nation that the humans had formed, I was simply going along with it because it was a pain. For me, Gods and humans have no worth.) (Shiva)

And here I was wondering what he would say.

Isn't that absolute isolated way of yours the very reason why you don't last long in anyone's memories?

Not trying to get involved with anyone, and not holding any connections with anyone.

That's why you had an air-like presence, and Yorishiro and I didn't remember

the impression we had of you.

(But for me...there's only one enemy that I have decided I must absolutely defeat.) (Quasar)

(Heh~) (Entropy)

(It is you.) (Quasar)

Eh?

(It is you, Dark God Entropy. In order to defeat you, I incarnated as a human. The 1,600 years you were sleeping, were a preparation time for me in order to defeat you!) (Quasar)

Chapter 148: At the grandstand

Wind Church's headquarters, the Wind Grand Workshop.

In that combat training space, a one-to-one fight is unfolding, and we were spectating this while gulping our breaths.

I -the Light Founder, Yorishiro-was seating together with the heroes and Founders that gathered from every part of the world.

But...

"What? The two suddenly stopped moving." (Mirack)

The battle that was intense from the get-go had suddenly stopped, and the ones at the battle ring: Haine-san and the Wind Founder, Toreido Shiva, were now glaring at each other without moving an inch.

It was silent to the point of being eerie.

"What happened? The two were moving so wildly just a while ago." (Karen)

My hero, Karen-san, was doubting this mysterious development.

"Ah, could it be that?! The one like in old stories that say: 'the first one that moves is the one that falls'?! In a fight between two experts that have read the hand of their opponent, a move can prove fatal!" (Celestis)

"What's that? So cool-dasu! I wanna try havin' such a high level match-dasu!" (Sasae)

"Ara, Sasae-chi, then, want to try it with me? The one that moves first loses, kuchukuchukuchu~" (Celestis)

"Gyahahahahahaha! Wait, Celestis-nee-chan, that just be a staring contest-dasu! It be different from the point of moving first-dasu yo!!" (Sasae)

Pong! Pong!

"Can't watch in silence?"

"Sorry." "-Dasu." (Celestis+Sasae)

The peanut gallery was noisy, so I am glad that the Earth Founder-sama gave

them a good hit on their head.

“Let there be hot-bloodedness.” (Enou)

...But I know the real reason why the two suddenly stopped moving.

I myself have the soul of the Light Goddess Inflation after all. As an incarnation of a God as them, I was able to listen to the soul wave conversation they were having.

To think that Shiva was actually the incarnation of the Wind God Quasar...

It was so straightforward that it in turn caught me off guard.

Right now, Haine-san was being careful by having a conversation with Shiva in a voice that people can't hear, and was trying to dig out what plans he has.

I can't mess up and make the situation more chaotic, so I simply watch over the situation.

“Even so...this is the first time this one has seen this. Is that the Dark Power that Haine-kun uses?” (Azul)

In this situation where there's no visible way of knowing when the next move will be made, the Water Founder begins to talk as if trying to divert the tension.

“This one has heard about it before, but once looking at it in person, this one can tell that there's not a single resemblance from any of the five known elements.” (Azul)

“Isn't that right, Papa? On top of that, it is crazy strong. It erased the fierce attack of the Wind Founder in a single swing.” (Celestis)

Is what the water hero continues by saying.

Listening to this conversation, I can tell that the rumours of the Water Founder doting on his daughter are real.

“The sixth element, darkness huh. No matter how many times I see it, it is a baffling power. Even though I have been saved by that power a lot of times.” (Mirack)

“Let there be hot-bloodedness.” (Enou)

“The one who dealt the finishing blow to Great Pillar-sama be in actuality that

lad's power, ya know. It be practically him that defeated it on his own."

The Earth Founder says this seriously. The earth hero that is praised as the strongest in history made the words of this Obaba-sama heavier.

"Just recently, the man that be working as the Founder before me had received an oracle from Mantle-sama. Telling him to: 'Defeat the personification of the Dark God Entropy'. Because of the incident with Great Pillar-sama that occurred not long after, it be wrapped up as a fake oracle, but ya see, it be bothering me, ya know."

"About the Dark God? That there's a sixth one in the Gods of Creation?"
(Karen)

An unrestful atmosphere flowed between the Founders.

"That's not something too welcomed. Right now in this world, the balance has been formed with five churches. If a new factor is driven into it, that balance might crumble." (Azul)

"Let there be hot-bloodedness." (Enou)

"No matter what it is, adding something to something that's already completed is incredibly difficult. If a Dark God really does exist..." (Azul)

"It does exist." (Yorishiro)

Unable to hold it, I ended up speaking.

Everyone's gaze gathered onto me, so I couldn't just stop in the middle anymore.

"The Dark God Entropy exists." (Yorishiro)

"Ya say that with quite the confidence-sa ne. What did the Light Goddess-sama tell ya?"

"The secret of the world." (Yorishiro)

There's no way I can tell them I myself am the Light Goddess, so I adjust a few details.

"This is not the time to say everything. But there's one thing I can say clearly. This world is trying to change. In this changing world, we can't continue utilizing

the same system.” (Yorishiro)

“Ya talkin’ about the Mother Monsters?”

The Earth Founder says.

“It be true that our place has no choice but to change. The Great Pillar-sama we been relying on is gone, so we gotta grow independent. There be talk about trading the crops and meat for ethereal tools. In this conference, I wanted to talk about that too.”

“That’s good-desu wa ne. I have heard of the production ability of Ishtar Blaze. If a trade is established, my worries at the annual rainfalls will lower-desu wa.” (Yorishiro)

“At that time, please do come to us. This one will provide use of our Water Church’s maritime transportation.” (Azul)

“Let there be hot-bloodedness.” (Enou)

I managed to properly make the matter with Entropy hazy.

The Founders never forget the benefits to their own churches, and are always walking in a way so that they won’t damage it.

The world might be changing at a speed that I didn’t expect.

The era when humans fought against each other; the era when humans fight against monsters; what will be waiting beyond that?

But in order to reach that, there’s the need to overcome several obstructions.

The Wind Church that still doesn’t have a settled position is the closest problem right now.

Whether we overcome it or not falls upon you, Haine-san.

Please make it so that it is either untangling the heart of the Wind God Quasar...or kill him.

Chapter 149: A God's utmost limits

(Defeat...me...) (Entropy)

In this conversation that shakes the soul, I -Kuromiya Haine and also the Dark God Entropy-continued speaking with the Wind God Quasar incarnated as Toreido Shiva.

(Are you saying that's your objective? What are you saying? Are you stupid? You already defeated me 1,600 years ago.) (Entropy)

(You are saying something like that was a victory? Even if you can fool the idiots Nova and Coacervate, you can't fool my eyes.) (Quasar)

Quasar paused for a bit, and said this as if emphasizing it.

(You lost on purpose.) (Quasar)

In the battle of Gods 1,600 years ago...

(You possess enough power to repel all five of us even if we were to gang up on you. No matter if the Light Goddess Inflation were there. If you got serious, you should be able to defeat her as well.) (Quasar)

(Why do you think that?) (Entropy)

(Because in the fight 1,600 years ago, the only one who seriously fought you was me.) (Quasar)

Looking back on it, in the battle of Gods that unfolded when this world had just been created, the scale defied all imagination. The sky split, the earth broke; even so, the Gods didn't fight seriously at all.

Obviously Mantle who hates fighting is one of them. Nova and Coacervate also thought that it should be fine to just leave it to Inflation that holds an advantage against me, so they were visibly slacking.

Even the important Inflation was holding back her attacks because she actually didn't wanted to be my enemy, so the fight itself was a mess.

Within that, only this guy fought me seriously, and was seriously trying to win against me. Because all his wind attacks were blocked by my dark matter, it was

hard to tell though. In the middle of that offensive and defensive battle, I feel like only the eyes of this guy were shining in seriousness.

(For an absolute power like you, the serious me, and Coacervate and the others who were slacking, it must have looked like it wasn't even worth your eyes. That's why you said you didn't remember me at all even when I fought seriously.) (Quasar)

(Uwa...) (Entropy)

What should I do? I can't say anything back at that.

Could it be that I have hurt him severely without noticing?

(I don't care about humans at all. Whether we give them freedom or enslave them, I don't care. But the battle itself made my heart dance. The Dark God Entropy that stands at the summit of Gods, and is the very personification of the ultimate state of a God. By defeating and surpassing you, I thought I would be able to stand at that summit.) (Quasar)

(No, I don't really—!) (Entropy)

(But you bastard didn't even fight properly, and fell on your own to our attacks! And then, falling prisoner to the seal, you ended up taking a 1,600 year sleep. Do you understand the dejection I felt that time?! The ultimate ruler of Gods showing such a pathetic sight!) (Quasar)

.....

It is true that I do have a way to defeat my natural enemy, the Light Goddess Inflation.

The Black Hole.

Black Hole, which is my strongest attack, increases the gravity of my dark matter to its very limits. The gravity that has been brought to such limits can catch even light.

Even if Inflation were to shoot light divine power at the Black Hole, before it reaches the ultra-compressed dark matter that serves as its core, the light would be crooked by the gravity, and be trapped eternally in the schwartzshield radius.

But in order to achieve that, a half-assed Black Hole is not enough.

At the very least, it would need several times more mass than the Black Hole that erased Mantle, and if I were to create something like that, it would at the very least destroy the world partially.

(...It is just as you say, in the fight 1,600 years ago, I had a way to win. But that path would at the same time lead to the destruction of the world. I, who chose to protect the humans, being the one who destroys the humans would be getting my priorities backwards, don't you think?) (Entropy)

(Weakling!!) (Quasar)

Quasar lashed with a single word.

(Weakling, weakling!! That's called being a weakling!! A God is the world's summit, and the summit of those Gods is you! You are the one who stands on top of all things, and yet, why do you have to be considerate of the ones below you?! The lower ones should be the ones doing things for the top!! You who are the top of the top has broken this order, so this world got distorted. It became a world where trash like Nova and Coacervate treated it as if it were their own.) (Quasar)

(Quasar, you—!) (Entropy)

You were thinking in that way?

(I am also a God. I stand at the top of the world, and as a God that exists to rule the world, it is obvious that I would push through in that duty of mine. And whether it be lucky or unlucky, the most clearest objective to become the ultimate God has been prepared for me. It is you, Dark God Entropy.) (Quasar)

(Me huh.) (Entropy)

(1,600 years ago, seeing how you showed such uncouth sight and was sealed, I swore this. 'You will one day come back, at that time, I will gain strength and I will defeat you with my own strength. I will become the ultimate God'.) (Quasar)

(So that's why?) (Entropy)

...

(That's why you incarnated as a human? In order to obtain the power to defeat me?) (Entropy)

(...The other thing that was unpleasant was that I was unable to undo the seal that imprisoned you.) (Quasar)

It looks like he plans on ignoring my question.

(Even if it had been weakened by the passing of time, accomplishing a feat like undoing the seal on your own can only be done by the Light Goddess Inflation. If you are the King of Gods, she herself is the Queen of Gods. I can't even match her.) (Quasar)

I felt a jumpy glittery presence from afar.

...Did she get happy being called queen?

(I had no choice but to wait...for you to appear before me. And finally, that has become reality! Do you understand, Entropy?! Just how long I have been waiting for this day! My devotion, my tenacity! The time has come to tie everything up into action!) (Quasar)

(Oi, Quasar—!) (Entropy)

But without listening to my words, Quasar's soul inside the human's body was highly excited.

(Fuhahahahahaha!! Well then, let's resume our fight! But don't think of it as the probing just a while ago. The combination of the Wind God's divine tool, body techniques, and the ethereal research that the Wind God Quasar and the Wind Church have spent a millennium to form! That is what has led to the answer on how to defeat the ultimate!) (Quasar)

This has already surpassed the dimension of being a fight between Toreido Shiva and Kuromiya Haine in order to gauge skills.

It became a fight where the Wind God Quasar and the Dark God Entropy would bet their all on it.

The wind grows rampant.

Chapter 150: A wrath of a hundred million days

A wind of incredible vigour began swirling with Shiva and I at its centre.

Of course, it was something that he had made with his Wind God power.

(Now that I have learned that you are Entropy, I can't go easy on you. I will be going all out to defeat you!) (Quasar)

The wind encircling us was letting out a howling sound and was annoying my ears.

But with this much noise, our voices are also erased, and it won't reach Karen-san and the others who are spectating on the outside.

"Wind God Quasar, it is true that I didn't properly understand you." (Haine)

You, who I thought had the weakest presence within the four Base Elements, held such tenacity.

"In that case, I as one of the six Gods of Creation will accept your challenge. Those 1,600 years you say you have accumulated, throw them at me. But my dark matter is not half-baked, you know?" (Haine)

Dark matter gushes out from both of my arms.

That was practically like black smoke, but in this ring where a storm is raging, it wasn't dispersing like smoke against the violent wind.

It is because it is dark matter after all.

A destructive matter that erases all four basic elements. It was natural for it to not be blown by the wind and still maintained together.

"I don't know how much effort you have put since the time you became human, but the affinities between divine powers is absolute. Especially the affinity between my darkness and you four Base Elements. Now, how will you be overturning that natural order of things?" (Haine)

The Wind God grinned with his human vessel.

"Wind Twin Guns, Fuuma Koutarou." (Shiva)

That weapon again huh.

Shooting compressed air from the hole of its cylinder, it is a weapon that pierces the targeted enemy. But those bullets should have already proven that they can't stand against my dark matter barrier.

One breath faster than the guns pointing at me, I wave both hands to the side and set a dark matter barrier.

Now then, with this, you shouldn't be able to harm me, Quasar.

"[*Crumble*]" (Shiva)

I could tell that the trigger of the gun had been pulled.

At the same time as this happened, my body was blown away.

"Guuugh?!" (Haine)

A dreadful impact as if I had been punched through my whole body.

Both of my legs parted from the floor, and I was blown away with good momentum.

"What?! What happened?!" (Haine)

I couldn't tell at all.

The dark matter shield was covering everything with no gaps. There should have been no openings for even a needle to pass through. Are you saying he went through that and was able to hit me?!

"It is exactly because you are strong that there are many things you overlook." (Quasar)

Quasar—Shiva was slowly walking towards me.

"What is it I rule over? Just what is the name of the church I govern? It looks like you have completely forgotten that." (Shiva)

"What are you saying? You are the Wind God, and the Wind Founder, right? And while at it, you are also the wind hero." (Haine)

"True. But you haven't fully comprehended wind. It is because an absolute strong individual is able to do everything with just one power, that it only sees

all things in one dimension. They don't try to learn about it deeper. That's the opening that the weak can use." (Shiva)

Are you greedy or modest? Settle on one please.

"Wind is air. And air exists anywhere in the world. You simply can't see it. It exists right in front of us, and it is in constant touch with us. At your hands, legs, face; at all your body." (Shiva)

"?!!"

"I can freely control that air with my divine power. You are already touching that air. That's equal to already being in contact with me. No matter what firm barrier you have with no gaps, it won't change." (Shiva)

"In other words, that attack just now was—?!!" (Haine)

"I explained it before, right? This weapon called gun, by detonating the air that has been compressed in the chambers of it, it is able to shoot them as bullets. But this is a Wind God divine tool. By controlling the divine power, I am able to expand the gunpowder reaction towards the outside as well. Even the air that you are in contact with right now." (Shiva)

"That means...!" (Haine)

My surroundings have completely turned into this thing called gunpowder, and by pulling the trigger, it explodes.

That was the identity of the attack just now?!

"Wind Twin Guns' technique, dispersion of matter 'Crumble'. The one just now was just a simplified explanation though. It is actually quite the advanced technique." (Shiva)

"Thanks for the kind explanation. But is it okay to be blabbering about your technique?" (Haine)

"If you know what brought you to your defeat, the sense of defeat will be more deeply edged. The way of thinking that the more information one has, the more the advantage they hold, is something that only the weakest among the weakest possess." (Shiva)

"Is that something the Founder of the secretive church is supposed to say?!"

(Haine)

I rush towards Shiva.

As long as he has that technique called 'Crumble', it is in a state where he is always in contact with me via the air.

He is able to deal attacks at point-blank.

All barriers are pointless, probably as long as I don't completely cut off the air between him and me.

In that case, being far away will simply be disadvantageous for me.

I will close the distance and force it into close combat!

"...Is what you would think." (Shiva)

Shiva easily allowed my approach.

A fierce exchange of punches and kicks began.

"Hoh~, quite the sharp moves you have there. Where did you learn that way of moving your body?" (Shiva)

"From my father, or should I say, the forest and my father?" (Haine)

"Ha, no wonder your moves are sharp, yet unpolished. Dark God Entropy, just a while ago, you asked why I incarnated as a human, but you as well, why is it that you incarnated as a human?" (Shiva)

Both my hands and legs were already releasing dark matter, so just by grazing Shiva, it would stick onto his body, and would eat away on his divine power.

Once that happens, he would be defenseless and won't be able to do anything. Once that happens, it will be my win.

That's all I have to do, and yet...

"There's not even a need to ask. We are talking about you, a God that caused a battle of Gods with the simple reason of 'loving humans'. You probably just purely wanted to try being a human. Your views are already simplistic. Because you were an absolute power, it in turn also made you unable to see things deeply. That's why you didn't notice the possibilities of possessing a human body." (Shiva)

With his hand still holding his gun, Shiva grabbed my wrist and pulled me.

I tried to resist, but for some mysterious reason, I couldn't bring out strength, and my balance crumbles.

"What pathetic moves. Your center of gravity is totally visible!" (Shiva)

The other hand of Shiva strikes my chin at lightning speed with the gun barrel.

A gun is a lump of metal. Using it as a blunt weapon gives decent amount of damage.

"Wind Twin Guns' technique, first form. The many moves that can be made in close quarters combat is what makes the twin guns truly shine." (Shiva)

"Gugh, Quasar...you—!!" (Haine)

I am being overwhelmed in close combat too.

And what is deciding it is the level of technique. Quasar in that human body has polished the way of using his body in leaps and bounds better than I do.

"6 internal organs, spread to 12 meridians, 15 collaterals, and reaches to the 660 openings – what passes through is ki blood. Different from the ki in the atmosphere, the one filling the body is ki blood. In other words, the total of 114 meridians in your body become the path for the wind to pass. Knowing that important point, and being able to freely control it, you can become wind itself." (Quasar) <I honestly just did some light research and everything was chinese, so I might be wrong here.>

That is...

"That is the essential point of our wind martial art that my Wind Church has taken centuries to polish. Dark God Entropy, it is true that defeating you purely with divine power would be impossible no matter how many hundred millions of days I pile up. That's why I endured the shame, and decided on gaining a different power. Even the human power...that you loved so much and went so far to protect that you even tainted the superiority of the strongest God." (Quasar)

1,600 years.

Are you telling me that he utilized all of that time to obtain a variety of

powers? In order to defeat me?

The one in front of me is already not a God.

Even when he was already an ultimate existence like that of a God, he still tried to reach for a further extreme.

Something that surpasses a God.

Chapter 151: Power that defeats Gods

I am being pushed back.

Pushed back overwhelmingly by the Shiva that holds the soul of the Wind God Quasar.

“What’s wrong? Are you not going to come at me? In that case, I will be continuing my offensive.” (Shiva)

Shiva attacks mercilessly.

“Wind Twin Guns’ technique, [Sliding].” (Shiva)

“Wind Twin Guns’ technique, [Chaos Beat].” (Shiva)

“Wind Twin Guns technique, [Crumble].” (Shiva)

“Goaah!”

No good.

All of his attacks hit me with pinpoint accuracy. Crumbling my balance, he exploits the openings it creates.

Not only is there no way to fight back, even my defense can’t keep up.

With that human body of his, that God has accumulated experience and training, and it was in full display at this moment.

An art that uses the body, an art that utilizes the weapon, an art that utilizes divine power; and by combining them all, it creates a natural mix of arts.

They are not things that were build up in one day. It is something that they devoted to create in the time I indulged in sleep inside that seal.

“You—! For the sake of building up this level of technique, you rejected all relations with the other Gods?!” (Haine)

“Contact with those rotted beings would not only be a waste of time, it would also taint my self. In order to draw near your level, a millennium would be lacking. I don’t have the time to waste on trash.” (Shiva)

This Wind God has been a mystery for a long time, and within that veil of

mystery, to think that something as terrifying as this was hidden.

“...How is it, Entropy? It is true that the dark matter you control is the strongest. But right now, you are a human. You are simply a human that controls dark matter. In that case, there’s divine power, divine tools, and your own body; the one who is able to master the most what they have available and manage to utilize it precisely, is the one that wins!” (Shiva)

Even if I wanted to speak back, the pain and numbness was not letting me move my mouth.

“I who couldn’t match your power as a God, had no choice but to gather power elsewhere in order to challenge you. You can laugh at how pathetic that is. But even so, since I am a God, I will defeat you, and show you that I can polish myself to become the summit of Gods!” (Shiva)

“There’s no way I would laugh at that!” (Haine)

The sensation finally returned to my lips.

“Isn’t that splendid, Wind God Quasar. It is true that you got involved with humans far more than I did, and understand them more. In those 1,600 years I was simply sleeping, you pushed on your studies and improved on your techniques which have now crystallized. I can clearly tell that.” (Haine)

“What?!” (Shiva)

“From the five, I feel like I might have met the most decent one of the Gods for the humans...but, too bad. That’s exactly why it is a pity.” (Haine)

“Are you delirious already?! What is it that is a pity?!” (Shiva)

Shiva prepares his wind twin guns. If I show a slight suspicious move, he must be intending to blow me away with that ‘Crumble’ that activates at point-blank range.

“I am saying it is a pity I can’t allow myself to lose against you. I can’t provide you with the blessing of ‘victory’ for all the things that you have desperately tried to form. Because that would be the biggest of insults for you.” (Haine)

And what’s most important is that...

“You can’t defeat me. All possibilities aside from me losing on purpose...are

impossible. It is exactly as you said. I am indeed the absolute God. To cover that difference between us with just this much...is truly not enough.” (Haine)

“Impudent talk! Then edge it in that body of yours! Wind Twin Guns’ technique—-?!!!!!” (Shiva)

He must have noticed already.

From my feet, a mass of dark matter was overflowing.

But it wasn’t only my feet. From both my hands, and from the surface of my whole body, dark matter was being produced and covering my body.

“You bastard, doing strange stuff! It is pointless struggle! Wind Twin Guns technique, [Crumble]!” (Shiva)

The technique of Shiva activated, but by the time it blew up the air in my surroundings, the dark matter had already covered me completely.

That’s why I said it won’t work.

It is exactly because his target is in contact with air that his technique is able to activate at point-blank range no matter where they are, a terrifying technique.

But right now, my body itself has been covered by dark matter without leaving a single opening, and it is not in contact with air.

And dark matter is the strongest protective film that nullifies divine powers.

Even when that dark matter had covered my whole body, it was still being produced in large amounts.

“You isolated yourself huh! —-?! Wa?!!” (Shiva)

He must have noticed too.

The dark matter that continued increasing in amount was steadily flooding the place, covering the floor, and was spreading to all directions with me as its centre.

That domain of dark matter had finally reached the feet of Shiva.

The ground had been dyed completely black, and that black was creeping up his legs.

“The dark matter is—! Are you planning on swallowing me up as well?!”
(Shiva)

Shiva tried to get away from it, but with his divine power disturbed, he couldn't fight back at all.

Even if you try to struggle out of it, it is already too late.

The dark matter crawled from Shiva's legs to the abdomen, chest, head, and after covering his whole body, it swallowed him.

But even with that, the dark matter didn't stop propagating.

From the spectator seat, Karen-san, Yorishiro and the others must be seeing it as something black thickly swelling; a strange spectacle.

Being pressed down by the dark matter that can be described as darkness itself, the vision was obviously blocked; the sense of hearing and the sense of touch as well. It also erases divine power, so you can't detect those either. The only thing that can be felt is the gravity emitted by the dark matter, which allows you to understand that you are inside darkness.

(Welcome to the darkness domain.) (Entropy)

I speak in the soul wave transmission again.

In this place, there's not even air, so there's no way for the sound from the vibrations of air to reach him.

(You have been caught inside darkness. Inside the dark matter domain where not a single ray of light can pass through. In here, you are powerless.) (Entropy)

(Do you think you have won with this, Entropy?! Wind Twin Guns' technique —!) (Quasar)

It is pointless.

Your technique, your power itself cannot be activated unless it makes contact with air.

Now that we have been swallowed by darkness and all air has been cut off, it is basically as if both your hands and legs have been torn off.

Even your specialized body arts are pointless inside this darkness.

Dark matter not only covers your entire body, it even goes inside your body, and completely fills your lungs and stomach with darkness.

There's no place darkness can't invade, and there's nothing darkness can't swallow.

(GAAAAAAHHHH!!) (Quasar)

It is truly a shame. For that crystallization of things you have taken so much time to make, to be destroyed this easily.

But even so, it looks like I had to prove that there's no way to overcome things that can't be overcome.

The two poles and the four base elements; the heavy difference that divides the Gods in two.

([Dark Matter, Set]!) (Entropy)

In an instant, the darkness disperses.

The dark matter, that was inside and outside of Shiva, created a gravitational vibration the moment it disappeared -in other words, a gravity explosion.

The microscopic dark matter had dispersed all at the same time, not only outside of him, but even inside, when they were glued onto him.

“Gahaaaaah!!”

Being crushed by the outburst of gravity, Shiva was tragically blown up.

And ended up in tatters.

Chapter 152: Wind of Destruction

“...Huuffff!!...Huffff!!”

Due to my order, the propagated dark matter had all scattered and disappeared.

Going out of the scattered dark matter, I tried hard to fix my heavily disordered breathing.

Covered completely in dark matter, there's no air to breathe, and inside the dark matter where it is filled to the brim with adjusted gravity, I can control time as well and am able to stop the passage of time in my body at a number that's very close to zero.

With that ability, I left my body in a state where it doesn't breath, and with my God soul, I controlled the dark matter to crush Shiva.

That I am unable to fix my disordered breathing even now is because the damage I received from Shiva was that much big.

A fighting art that was created by several centuries of study. Each one of them was a deadly attack. I somehow managed to divert the attacks with my dark matter, or mitigate the damage with it. If not for that, it would have ended in one hit.

It is exactly because I thought that I couldn't continue enduring that I had to resort to covering it all in dark matter.

If possible, I didn't want to use it. It is dangerous after all.

“...Oi.” (Haine)

I drag my pained body and head to the man that was even more in tatters than me and was sprawled on the floor.

Shiva had received heavy damage from the outburst of gravity.

“Are you alive?” (Haine)

There's no response.

I don't want to think that he is dead.

I didn't want to use the method of covering the whole place in dark matter. I may be repeating myself here but, it is because it is dangerous.

It is not because the gravity attack is powerful or because you can't breathe. There's a representative trait of the dark matter that makes it the most dangerous part of it. The phenomenon that occurs when the divine power is erased.

In the first place, divine power is a composition that was produced by us Gods when we created the world. It fills the sky, earth, water; at all places in the world. Of course, even within the body of humans.

Divine power is originally a spiritual-like energy that exists in order for living beings to stay alive. With the cooperation of the six Gods, the humans created had all divine powers: earth, water, fire, wind, light, and darkness without fail. With that balance in place, the essence of life is born.

If a human were to touch dark matter, their divine power inside of them would be erased thoroughly, and in the end, the incorporeal essence of life would dry up as well, and it would lead to death.

Shiva had been swallowed up by dark matter and has been affected by it, so rather than the damage from the gravity outburst, that side of things should be more serious.

Even if he is the incarnation of the Wind God, he is without doubt a human right now.

"It is my win." (Haine)

I call Shiva once again.

"Have you had your fill with this? The challenge that you took 1,600 years to prepare, I have properly accepted it and responded to it. Though it doesn't mean I would just lose on purpose because of it." (Haine)

The fight that was made as an extension of the five Founders Conference had escalated not by two times, but three.

There's still a lot of things I want to ask this guy as a God, and as a Founder as

well. I want to have Yorishiro help out in a variety of things.

As a hero...I don't really have any noteworthy things to ask. The hero alliance of Karen-san and the others is terminated after all.

At any rate, I want this guy to do a lot of things.

It might end up overworking him, but it is also his fault for taking that many positions on his own.

I will have him work properly by the amount of titles he has.

"The Wind capital, Rudras Metropolis... This is the city that you used in order to defeat me huh..." (Haine)

We just finished our fight, so I didn't feel like moving on with the matter at hand. For now, I try doing harmless talk.

"In order to fight against me with something other than the power of a God, you obtained the knowledge of humans, and piled up the power of humans for several centuries, and this is the nation that came out of it huh. The wish of a God has gathered people, and has become the base of their living." (Haine)

"It is not something as exaggerated as that." (Shiva)

Shiva says this while still collapsed on the floor.

"The trigger of me raising the Rudras Metropolis...the Wind Church, was because I wanted prayer energy. I was tempted by Inflation." (Shiva)

"The result of the Underworld Country huh." (Haine)

It happened not long after the world was created.

The first nation of humanity, the Dark Underworld Country, was build up by the Light Goddess Inflation who had incarnated into a human called as Queen Izanami.

That Underworld Country was seen as the avarice of humans, and the ones who brought it to its destruction were the four Base Elements.

The Wind God Quasar is one of them.

"For me, that was a pain to go along with. If I hadn't cooperated, the trash Nova and Coacervate would have made a ruckus, and it would obstruct my

training, so I had no choice but to expend part of my divine power to create a calamity. And after that, the one who appeared was that woman.” (Shiva)

Inflation who had returned to her God appearance from that of Queen Izanami huh.

“That woman showed a path to us where we could sip on the power of humans. That alone was something I couldn’t ignore. That’s because just by eating the prayers of humans, my power would increase by several times more after all. At that time, my hopes of defeating you had inflated.” (Shiva)

But that was the trap of Inflation for destroying the Underworld Country.

“At some point in time, the human prayers were steadily decreasing, and at the same time, I noticed that I couldn’t maintain my power without the prayers. At that moment, I finally learned the scariness of that woman’s grudge. Beating you was an ephemeral dream. Right now, it is even questionable if I would be able to maintain my very existence.” (Shiva)

“And that’s when I appeared.” (Haine)

“That’s right. Honestly speaking, I was trembling in happiness. It is because I could still maintain an acceptable level of power as a God, it was a critical moment. Putting it in another way, it also means this was my last chance. There will probably be no other moment where I will become stronger than now and be able to challenge you once again.” (Shiva)

Shiva said this with a feeling of abandonment.

“...That’s why...I need nothing anymore.” (Shiva)

“What?” (Haine)

The dangerous air of those words instantly made my guard come up.

“What do you mean by that?!” (Haine)

“I couldn’t realize the ambition I took more than a thousand years aiming for. If I will just be decaying from now on until I disappear, I will just disappear right this instant. Let the world fall together with me..... Entropy, now that I think about it, you wanted to know, right? The place where the Mother Monster I created was.” (Shiva)

You are going to talk about that now?! Moreover, along with those ominous words.

“They were always at a place where you could see them. That’s how it has always been. The things that you want are right close by, and yet, you don’t notice that and continue searching. A bunch that likes to do wasteful things.”
(Shiva)

Shiva’s finger points at the sky.

At that place, there’s no sky. A black cloud was blocking the view.

“That black cloud, could it be—?!” (Haine)

The ‘Wind Barrier’ that was covering Rudras Metropolis at the very beginning...I thought it had gone somewhere after it dispersed, but it had become a black cloud and was covering the sky?

“Let me introduce you to it. That itself is what I have created as a God; the Wind Mother Monster, Beelzebub. Now, devour this world that I have no need of anymore!” (Shiva)

Chapter 153: Few against many

The Black Cloud swirled around as if it had its own will.

It was high in the sky.

From the center of that swirl, a part of the black cloud stretched thinly like that of a spider thread, and just like that, it stretches all the way down.

Then, it lowers onto Shiva who was standing up with his body covered in wounds.

“Let me introduce it to you. This is my Mother Monster, Beelzebub.” (Shiva)

“Wind Mother Monster?! That black smoke?!” (Haine)

I couldn’t describe it in any other way.

From afar, it only looks like a black cloud; from up close, it looks like black smoke.

It is not impossible, but it is a gaseous-like body that doesn’t look like a living being at all. Even if they are classified as monsters, aren’t they supposed to be connected to living beings somehow or another?

“At the same time as they can give birth to wind element monsters, I also had them take on the role of hiding and protecting Rudras Metropolis. In other words, that is the Wind Barrier. Even if there’s travelers encountering the Wind capital by coincidence, these guys won’t allow them to enter unless allowed!” (Shiva)

“Making use of every goddamn thing! The humans, the city, the ethereal, and the monsters as well; you are utilizing them all as much as you want!” (Haine)

“I wonder about that. But that ends today. These guys will devour everything after all!” (Shiva)

The black smoke rushes in wave towards me with the order of Shiva.

My instincts were telling me that being bathed by that would definitely be bad news.

“Hmph!!”

I faced that thing straight on.

I release dark matter, and with the same level of wave, I clash it with the black smoke.

“I don’t know what that black smoke is, but it looks like it doesn’t have the power to fight straight on against the dark matter. I can feel the divine power is being erased!” (Haine)

“That’s true, but what about the others aside from you?” (Shiva)

“!!!”

Something came to mind, and I face the side.

And then, what came to view were the heroes that were being attacked by the black smoke in the same way as me, and the Founders as well!

“Damn it!!” (Haine)

I quickly ran towards them.

I will be distancing myself from Shiva in this way, but now that things have turned like this, I have no choice.

“Kyaaaaa!!” (Karen)

“What-dasu?! What-dasu?!” (Sasae)

“At any rate, it is certain that touching that thing will be dangerous! [Flame Burst]!” (Mirack)

The large fire that Mirack released had burned the place where the black smoke is, and it hindered its advance.

Thanks to that, the Founders and heroes are currently okay.

“Everyone!!” (Haine)

I also ran towards the group and release dark matter at the surroundings.

“Mirack! It looks like my power and yours is effective against this black smoke! The two of us will take one side each and block them out completely!!” (Haine)

“Got it!! But this smoke, since the fire element is effective against it, could it be that it is something wind element related?!” (Mirack)

Based on the element affinities, fire is the one that’s strong against wind.

Fire will breathe in the air, increase in potency, and with that heat, it disturbs the flow of the wind.

In our first encounter with Mirack, I remember her burning all the wind element monsters -Python Flies-with one attack.

And so, the same thing happening here serves as a strengthening statement towards this black smoke actually being the Wind Mother Monster.

“We don’t know what this smoke is! As long as we don’t clarify the identity of it, don’t touch it by no means!!” (Celestis)

“You say identity, but how are we even going to identify it?! From what I can see, aside from it moving as if it has a will of its own, it seriously just looks like smoke, you know?!” (Mirack)

The fastest way would be to ask Shiva himself, but that guy is still at the center of the ring, and was simply looking at us with a grin on his face.

Mirack is releasing fire and I am releasing dark matter without pause, but the smoke is also coming down nonstop from the main body -the black cloud.

As long as we don’t burn it or erase it, we will be at a stalemate here.

“What is the Wind Founder doing?!”

I don’t know who said it, but that is a natural question.

Only the Wind Founder Shiva was not doing anything and simply standing on the ring, but he is completely fine. It doesn’t look like the black smoke is doing anything to him.

But that doesn’t mean we would get positive and think that we will be fine as well.

Unless you are extremely dense, you would definitely notice that this abnormality has something to do with the Wind Founder.

“Haine-san, what is the Wind Founder trying to do?! Just what in the world is

this black smoke?!” (Karen)

And that question being directed at me who was fighting with the Wind Founder is also natural.

We were talking for quite a bit after all.

“No, well...” (Haine)

But as expected, I couldn’t tell them the reality straight. There’s no way I can tell them that the Wind Founder is the Wind God himself, and he suddenly became despaired, and is now trying to suicide together with the world.

While I was hurting myself on what to say...

“More importantly, Karen-san...” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro speaks in good timing.

“The light divine power is not simply a power that destroys enemies with light. If that were the case, it would be no different from the fire divine power.” (Yorishiro)

“Yorishiro-sama? What is it, all of a sudden?” (Karen)

“Gather your light divine power to your eyelids and try to strain your eyes. The eyes are an instrument to catch the reflected light and grasp the surroundings. By increasing the accuracy of the information received by this reflected light with divine power...” (Yorishiro)

“L-Like this?! Kyaaaaa!!” (Karen)

Did she see something by doing what Yorishiro suggested?

Karen-san lets out a scream fitting her age.

“What?! Karen, what happened?!Damn it, at times like this, to think I can’t move from my place!” (Mirack
)

“Don’t get caught by your wicked desires and continue putting out a fire wall, lesbo hero!! So Karen-chi, what happened?!” (Celestis)

Karen-san answers Celestis with a trembling voice.

“This black smoke...this black smoke is...!” (Karen)

“Yes?” (Celestis)

“Bugs.” (Karen)

Eh?

“It looks like they are some sort of flies-desu wa ne. But they are incredibly small. They are even smaller than grains of sand. And there’s several millions of flies swarming around. That’s the true identity of this black smoke.” (Yorishiro)

“Waaaa?!” (Haine)

I unintentionally let out my voice at the words of Yorishiro.

In other words, this black smoke is actually a gathering of incredibly small insects?!

“Nuoooooooooooooooo!!!” (Mirack)

Hearing this, the strength of Mirack’s fire increases even more.

“That’s right.” (Shiva)

At some point in time, Shiva had arrived at a place close to us.

“The Wind Mother Monster, Beelzebub. Its identity is that of a swarm of super small fly-shaped monsters. They are a gathering of around a hundred billion, but the monster itself is only one. It is a group, and yet, it is only one kind of monster. By dispersing to the surroundings, they lay eggs all around, and wind monsters are born from it.” (Shiva)

This guy is saying such essential stuff in front of everyone...

“Riding the wind, they appear, swarming on rotten meat, they use that as a sacrifice to lay eggs, and change them to a new life. Life is born from filth. And the one that embodies this the most is the fly army, Beelzebub. By the hands of them, the world will meet its end today!!” (Shiva)

Chapter 154: Baal Cloud

“What be the meaning of this-sa ne, Wind Founder?”

The very first one to voice out was the Earth Founder Obaa-san.

“A Founder controlling a monster, I can only think of it as a bad joke. But if ya say it be the Mother Monster we been discussing about, that makes it the more doubting-sa ne.”

“...Hmph.” (Shiva)

Shiva simply made a villainous smile.

He doesn’t answer.

Is that supposed to be him scorning us?

“Don’t just stay silent and answer!” (Azul)

Even the Water Founder. As expected, he forgot his usual gentleness and lifted his voice.

{...Founder! Founder! I request a response!}

From the ear of the Water Founder, I heard an unfamiliar voice.

It came from the ethereal wireless communication device at his ear.

“...Stream Marine General? What’s wrong?” (Azul)

So they had communication with the outside through the wireless device?

The call was probably from the troops that were in standby outside Rudras Metropolis.

{It is an emergency! The cloud! The black cloud that was covering the sky has come down the ground, and—!!}

?!!

I look at the sky. There, I saw that the line that was connecting the black cloud to the ground... was not a single line anymore...

“Could it be—?! The soldiers at standby outside are also being attacked?!”

(Haine)

The only thing that we have to understand what's happening outside is the voice that's telling us about it from the wireless device.

Moreover, that voice was trembling with fear and confusion.

{The cloud... turned into smoke...a black smoke, and is closing onto us. It was eerie, so we fought back, but against smoke, the expected effect is not showing, and a few of the people at the frontline that touched the smoke...have been covered completely by it, and—!!}

“Hiiiih?!”

We, who knew about the real identity of the smoke, let out screams.

<More than ten have fallen victim to it. With their whole body covered by the smoke, they fell writhing in pain....! Eh? Wait a moment please! The smoke is backing off from the fallen people, and...!!>

Eh?

{Great! I don't know why, but it looks like the smoke has pulled back on its own! Are you okay?! Medic! Just in case, check out the people that have been attacked by the smoke—GAhaaagh?!}

“Wa?! What was that?! A scream?! What happened?! Respond!” (Azul)

For a while, only the sound of chaos reverberated from the wireless device.

{Founder! This is terrible! The people that were caught in the smoke and were now released from it, have suddenly begun attacking us!! There's no response even when we call out to them! The black smoke is also slowly approaching again! Orders please!! Orde—Gugyaa!}

After that, no matter how many times the Water Founder called, the only thing that was returned from the wireless device were screams and bellows.

“...Shiva!!!” (Haine)

I also let out an angry roar at Shiva.

With absolute certainty that he is the one who is responsible for this abnormal circumstances.

“...What Beelzebub is aiming for...is the insides of you humans.” (Shiva)

He replied with a tone as if he were teaching pitiful lost lambs.

“Sticking onto the humans, they enter through places like the mouth, nose, ears; at every possible hole to invade the body. Entering the lungs, passing through the veins, and at the end, they arrive at the brain. A single one of Beelzebub is as big as 1/10 of a grain of sand. There’s no problem in invading the body with that size. Then, once it arrives at the brain, it takes over their thoughts and...” (Shiva)

As if edging the shock even deeper, he stored it before saying it.

“...It can freely control them.” (Shiva)

“Then, the reason why the soldiers suddenly attacked their comrades was...!”
(Haine)

Because they were already the puppets of the flies.

“But that’s not all, you know? After all, the most important point of Beelzebub is that they are a Mother Monster. They have the function of laying eggs that give birth to wind element monsters. The brain of a human must be quite the nutritious place as a seedbed, don’t you think so too?” (Shiva)

“You—!!” (Haine)

“Fighting in this place, have all the humans be parasitized by Beelzebub, and just like that, I will have them return to their homelands. By the time they arrive, all their bodies should be filled with eggs. In time, they will hatch, tear away the host, and grow. The very center of the settlements will be covered by several hundreds of wind element monsters. Moreover, by that time, the Founders and heroes will have been turned into seedbeds as well and already be dead.” (Shiva)

“Disgusting-dasu~~~!!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan couldn’t endure it and lets out a groan. That’s how much the explanation of Shiva must have been displeasing in a physiological way.

So for those things, we are all only egg-laying containers huh.

Not only will we be killed...they plan on parasitizing us as living corpses!

{Founder-sama!! 1/10 of the troops stationed here have fallen to the control of the mysterious smoke! What should we do? Please give us orders!!}

At times, there would be understandable voices coming from the communication device, voices that were at their wit's end.

Even if they are being controlled, they are comrades. They probably can't attack them without hesitating.

As they continue in that state, the situation progresses.

"Now that it has come to this...!!" (Haine)

I resolve myself.

But Shiva was a breath faster.

"Hmph."

Shiva's body was obstructed by the black smoke, and just like that, he disappeared.

"He ran away?!" (Haine)

The most effective way of dealing with this swarm of flies is to defeat Shiva who is the one controlling them.

This black smoke that is made up of minuscule flies; each one of them may be small, but if the numbers are in the billions, the whole of them is close to being as big as the giant tree, Grandma Wood.

After all, the black cloud, that can be said to be the parent body, is covering the sky as far as the eye can see, and even when it has poured quite the amount to the ground, its denseness hasn't changed at all.

If we just continue as we are -blocking them with Mirack's fire and my dark matter-it is clear that it will turn into us exhausting ourselves.

And worst than that, the casualties the soldiers outside are receiving is serious.

Toreido Shiva... Wind God Quasar.

Are you seriously aiming to destroy the world using the Mother Monster?

Chapter 155: The way to carry out one's duty

Wind God Quasar.

There's no God that prides in being a God as much as him, and is as enthusiastic as him.

As he was a God, he aimed to become the ultimate God, and due to that, he challenged the currently strongest God that is me, Entropy.

And then, he lost.

The plans he took 1,600 years to have them take form, had all been turned to nothing. On the very limits of despair, he fell onto the reckless action of destroying all of humanity.

Is he the kind of guy that just goes in a straight line when cornered?

But, being forced into dying with him? No way!

"Why is the Wind Founder doing this?!"

And the Founders and heroes, who have no way of knowing of all this underlying circumstances, were drawing loops here.

The Wind Founder and wind hero that should have been originally a human like them, moreover, one that is on the same standing as them, aiming for the same objective. And yet, he is now causing such violent conduct.

"This is not the time to be worrying about that!" (Yorishiro)

The one who roared out was the Light Founder, Yorishiro.

"Right now, the priority is to overcome the tribulation in front of us! We can worry about the intentions of the Wind once we have safely come out of this alive!" (Yorishiro)

As expected of Yorishiro.

Her current position as Light Founder, her being the incarnation of the Light Goddess, and being the queen of the strongest nation of the world, are not just for show. Her ability to cope with danger is not to be looked down at.

“What we have to deal with urgently is the people that have been controlled by Beelzebub; how we are going to save them. The only one who we know about is the Water Church that told us about the situation via the communication device, but the units of the other churches must be under the same situation.” (Yorishiro)

That’s true.

Many people are in confusion because of the comrades that are suddenly attacking them due to being controlled by the flies. And this is making the opening for the flies to exploit even bigger.

While we are here, they are all being turned into puppets.

“Haine-san.” (Yorishiro)

“Yes!” (Haine)

“With Haine-san’s dark matter, do you think you can erase the flies that have invaded their body-desu ka?” (Yorishiro)

“...”

Without stopping the release of dark matter that is protecting us, I ponder.

“...It is not possible. The prospect of erasing them is indeed possible, but...” (Haine)

The fly army Beelzebub is the Wind Mother Monster. Since they are monsters, their bodies are formed with only divine power, so I can completely erase them with dark matter.

That’s why I am able to stop them right now by making a barrier of dark matter, but...if that were to enter the body of a human, the circumstances change.

“...Divine power is a life energy that is important for humans in order to maintain their bodily functions. If a living body were to touch dark matter, it will erase the divine power no questions asked, and in the worst case, it might even kill the host due to a shortage of divine power.” (Haine)

“How about aiming directly only at the parts where the flies are parasitizing?” (Yorishiro)

“Even I am not omnipotent, you know. It is impossible to have the dark matter make such precise movements. In just that one point, even when dark matter is also minuscule, Beelzebub which possesses decision making as a pseudo-lifeform is superior in that aspect.” (Haine)

Even so, there’s no other option but to pickle a large amount of dark matter to forcefully erase the monsters inside the body.

But if I were to do that, I would also be erasing all the divine power of that person, and that would certainly lead to death.

There’s no doubt that the flies are hiding deep inside the body.

It definitely won’t be enough to just pour dark matter on the outside of the body like the time with Shiva.

“Then, as expected...” (Yorishiro)

“Yeah. The only way to make a breakthrough is to find Shiva.” (Haine)

If it’s Shiva who holds the soul of the Wind God, he should be able to freely control the flies.

That’s exactly why it has fallen into this situation after all...

“We will find Shiva, and convince or beat him down; whichever the case, we will have him stop the flies. As I have said before, the flies are monsters. They are purely masses of divine power. Even if they were to die inside the body, they will die without leaving a trace behind, and should not leave any remaining effects in the body.” (Haine)

“But he did speak about laying eggs inside the whole body-desu wa ne? We should do something before that happens!” (Yorishiro)

It means that we don’t have the leisure of time.

In that case, we should find Shiva as soon as possible—but when I was about to run off, I noticed. If I were to leave here, who will protect everyone?

These repulsive flies were raiding our very vision, and are tenaciously struggling even when blocked by my dark matter.

If I leave this place to find Shiva, who will protect them?

Karen-san, Mirack, Celestis, Sasae-chan, Yorishiro, Doraha, and the Founders of every church...If even they were to fall victim to the flies...!!

“Let there be hot-bloodedness!!” (Enou)

It was at that moment.

At my back, an overwhelming fire divine power swirled, and was released to all directions.

This swirling of fire that was mysteriously not affecting us humans was properly burning away the flies.

“This is...!!” (Haine)

I look back.

What I saw there was the Fire Founder with his fist lifted up, wrapped in a Divine tool band. It was the figure of Saruo Enou.

As I thought, this fire storm came from him!

I knew about his past history of being the General of the Ignis Militant corps, but to think he would possess such powerful divine power...

Its power is close to that of the hero Mirack.

“Let there be hot-bloodedness.” (Enou)

“It is just as the Fire Founder says.” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro, even you have become able to understand what the Fire Founder says?

“We Founders will leave Rudras Metropolis and return to where the troops are.” (Yorishiro)

“Eh?!”

“We will bring back the information we obtained here, and we will fix the command order of our confused allies. With that, the outside should be able to hold on for quite a while more.” (Yorishiro)

“Don’t say such stupidity! This place was safe because there was my dark matter! If you were to go out, you guys will—!” (Haine)

“We didn’t become Founders just to be decorations.” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro says this.

“Shouldering the church also means that we have to shoulder the thousands of lives that belong to it. Faced with that crisis right in front of us, if we were to run away because of fear of our lives, we would be failures as Founders.”
(Yorishiro)

“Being told that by a youngster, there’s already no running away for the elderly.” (Azul)

Even the Water Founder steps forward.

“This one is a weakling, so this one is honestly scared witless...but even so, they have entrusted me with being the Founder; this one has to answer that sincerity. Merchants have no courage, but this one has to show that this one at least has the guts.” (Azul)

“Also, if we can stand ground outside, we can buy time-sa ne.”

The Earth Founder too.

“In that time, grab that Wind idiot and give him a good beating. If ya manage to have him do as ya say, even if we all end up being controlled, we can still fix it-sa ne. Lad, I be relying on ya again.”

“Let there be hot-bloodedness!” (Enou)

These people...!

They unexpectedly have plenty enough sense of duty to stand over others!

“Understood! I will find Shiva and beat him up! Everyone as well, be careful!!”
(Haine)

Chapter 156: Black Dragon vs Black Army

“Haine-san, we will also go together with the Founders.” (Karen)

Karen-san speaks to me.

“Yorishiro-sama and the others will need guarding until they leave Rudras Metropolis after all. And in order to save the troops that are currently in danger, the power of us heroes will be necessary.” (Karen)

“Understood. I leave that side to you, Karen-san.” (Haine)

“Sorry, Haine-san! This time again, I will be leaving Haine-san all alone with the important part.” (Karen)

“That’s not true. It is because Karen-san and the others are protecting the back, that I am able to push forward all the time without the need of looking back.” (Haine)

And then, I stop the release of the dark matter barrier that I had placed all this time, and at the same time, I create repulsion force at my feet to jump away. On top of that, I scatter dark matter in all directions, and erase several thousands of flies in one go.

...In actuality, it will most likely be the very definition of difficult to try finding Shiva who has hidden himself.

Even he himself knew that the fight would be decided if he were captured, so he disappeared from our sight.

He must have hidden himself with the preparedness of saying ‘no way I will let you find me’.

If I were to blindly look for him, that in itself will be a waste of time, and by that time, our side might have fallen in control of the demonic flies.

That’s why, there’s the need to add an extra something in my way of searching.

“Gotta add something!!” (Haine)

I utilize the repulsion force of the dark matter, and fly into the sky.

High up.

At that place, there's the black cloud that can be said to be the main body of Beelzebub.

I jump inside it.

And then...

"[Dark Matter, Set]!!" (Haine)

The dark matter coming out from both of my hands gushed out like the violent rushing stream of a large river, and spreads to both sides.

The black wave mixes with the black cloud, but without merging into one, one side devoured the other and continued spreading.

"Again, [Dark Matter, Set]!" (Haine)

I once again roused myself into releasing more dark matter.

The dark matter is just small particles, but with several millions, it becomes a mass of incredible size, and undulates wildly in the sky.

Jumping into Beelzebub, that sight of devouring everything looked as if a black dragon was swimming inside the black cloud.

And the black cloud couldn't do anything but be devoured by this black dragon.

The black cloud had soon lost 1/10 of its original numbers.

"You are still underestimating me, Quasar." (Haine)

No matter if it's a Mother Monster, if we were to fight face to face, I would win.

Beelzebub can stop if we defeat Shiva who serves as the control tower, but if we wipe out the several billions of flies, it will also stop.

But well, there's nothing I can do about the ones that have already invaded the body though...

That's why it would trouble me if Shiva doesn't come out.

I have to make him come out to try and stop me from wiping out his cute

Mother Monster.

“Don’t look down on me, Quasar!! I am the ultimate God that you used 1,600 years to train in order to defeat and still didn’t manage to!! The longer you hide, the easier it will be for me to erase the monster you created!” (Haine)

Now, come out Shiva! Get taunted!

I once again increase the output of dark matter.

The sky that was dyed with the color of the black cloud seemed as if it would be dyed away at any time soon.

“Quasar, you underestimated me. Even if you Base Elements were to do those 1,600 years 1,600 times more, you would still not be able to defeat me!!” (Haine)

Black was being repainted by black.

Chapter 157: Sniper

“Incredible~!”

I -Kourin Karen-was shocked mindless while looking at the sky.

Shocked by the craziness of what Haine-san was doing.

I thought for certain that he would be running around looking for the Wind Founder Shiva-san at the Rudras Metropolis.

But to think he would fly up!

“He must be trying to lure him out.” (Yorishiro)

My Founder and friend, Yorishiro-sama, was at my side looking at the sky.

It was as if a black dragon was piercing through a black cloud.

It was such an out-of-the-world sight that you would think there won't be a second time seeing something like this.

“Lure out...” (Karen)

“That Mother Monster must be important for Shiva as well. If it were to be on the verge of being wiped out, he might come out. It would be wrapped up faster than straightforwardly searching inside the Wind capital.” (Yorishiro)

You might say that's the faster way, but even if we were to search the whole world, I am pretty sure the only one who would be able to do something like this is Haine-san. And before all that, I think that the only one who can defeat that army of small-sized monsters is Haine-san.

If I am not careful, my mind might go completely blank.

“But there's one other reason why Haine-san is going wild like that in the sky.” (Yorishiro)

“Eh?”

“It is something simple. If he goes that wild at the main body of the flies and decreases their numbers, the flies that go down will also decrease equally in numbers. As proof, there's not that many around us, right?” (Yorishiro)

Now that she mentions it...

Mirack-chan is still doing her best with her fire, but contrary to that, there's no presence of the black smoke in the surroundings.

"Haine-san is trying to reduce the encroachment of the flies towards the humans as much as possible, that's why he plunged in there..... Now, let's not waste the consideration of Haine-san. Let's escape the city fast, and regroup with the light knights outside." (Yorishiro)

The knights from the Aurora Knight corps that had accompanied us should be under attack as well. The Ignis Militant corps, the Stream Marine corps, and the Scorched Earth Annihilation corps too.

We should return to where they are and fulfill our duties as heroes!

"Let's hurry everyone! —Wait." (Karen)

Just as I was hyped up, I noticed that everyone was acting strange.

We have to hurry and return, and yet, no one was moving.

"What's wrong? Let's move everyone! Every grain in the hourglass is precious, you know?" (Karen)

"Don't move!!" (Celestis)

I was suddenly shouted at by Celestis-chan.

There's no need to raise your voice that much!

"...I understand. Because you were entranced by your beloved prince, you didn't notice, right?" (Celestis)

"Eh?!"

Beloved?! Beloved, she said!

"Sasae-chi, lend me that for a moment." (Celestis)

"Ahn, mah snacks!" (Sasae)

Celestis-chan sticks her hand in Sasae-chan's pocket without permission and takes it out. And from there, Celestis-chan was holding a snack bag that is widely sold in Apollon City.

Celestis-chan throws that to the front.

And when she did...

Bang!! Bang Bang!

A sound that felt as if it could pierce my eardrums rang as the snack bag was torn asunder in mid-air.

“?!!”

“Gyaaa~su!! Mah snack~~!!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan wails.

After being torn to that many pieces, there’s no way anyone can eat them anymore.

“It can’t be helped. We can’t show it with a person, right? Someone is aiming at us from somewhere. And it is trying to prevent us from leaving here.”
(Celestis)

“Aiming? Preventing?!” (Karen)

“You, you don’t know why Mirack-chi is still spreading her fire, right? You really are just looking at the person you like! Oi, Mirack-chi, as expected, this girl doesn’t even see you~.” (Celestis)

“Stop it! I will get so sad that my support will weaken, damn it!!” (Mirack)

Mirack-chan shouted in sadness.

“Could it be...the reason why Mirack-chan is releasing fire even when there’s no flies is because...!” (Karen)

“To conceal us. Against the sniper that we don’t know where it is aiming at us from.” (Celestis)

Sniper.

The reason why the snacks of Sasae-chan were torn to pieces was because someone shot them from somewhere?

Like the air bullets the Wind Founder and hero Shiva was using in the fight with Haine-san not that long ago?!

“Could it be...Shiva-san himself is attacking us?!” (Karen)

“Who knows. If Haine-chi’s words are correct, that thin man should have hidden himself to protect his win, so I don’t think he would just so readily come out. And I also feel like this is slightly different from his style.” (Celestis)

“Style?” (Karen)

“That good-looking bastard used a projectile weapon, but he clashed from the front, and while mixing martial arts, he fought at close to middle range. But the person that is aiming at us from who-knows-where is probably sniping us at quite the long range.” (Celestis)

I see.

It is also possible that Shiva-san has changed his style, but the possibility is low.

I try looking at the surroundings.

In this training space, there’s not much obstructions, moreover, there’s a number of spires around.

If someone were to be hidden in one of them and aiming at us...

“Mirack-chan is spreading her fire here and there because she is concealing us and using it as a shield. If what’s being shot is air bullets, due to the affinities, the fire has an advantage.” (Karen)

“We finally have the chance to utilize the element advantage. But looking at the situation as a whole, things are still going pretty bad though.” (Celestis)

Even if Mirack-chan is creating a firewall, if we were to take one step out, we will get sniped.

If the other party’s objective is to prevent us from regrouping with the people outside...no, to prevent us from escaping from here...

“Whichever it is, just who in the world has set this up?” (Karen)

“Well, there’s only one thing that comes to mind, don’t you think?” (Celestis)

Celestis-chan makes a vulgar smile that she doesn’t do in her times as an idol but frequently appears when she is in hero mode.

“This is the Wind capital, Rudras Metropolis. It is the military force of the Wind Church, the Whirlwind Raid corps.” (Celestis)

Chapter 158: Children of Shiva

Whirlwind Raid corps.

The Wind Church's military power that is worthy of standing in the same position as the Light Church's Aurora Knight corps, and the Fire Church's Ignis Militant corps.

Only that name has been passed to the other churches, but in terms of the details about it, they are shrouded in mystery, just like their church.

Since stepping into this Rudras Metropolis as a special case, we haven't seen almost anyone aside from Shiva.

A notification was probably sent to all the city and they were hidden in a way that we wouldn't catch sight of them.

"...Ah, now that I think about it, the people that had guided us..." (Karen)

There were several other people aside from the Founder that served as the guides or surveillance...but before I noticed, they were already gone.

On the other hand, Celestis-chan was still throwing a number of snack bags, and was having the sniper -who we still don't know where it is- shoot them.

"What are ya doing-dasu ka, Celestis-nee-chan! Please don't sacrifice more of mah snack-dasu~~!!" (Sasae)

"Shat ap! Once we return alive, I will buy you twice as many! But...damn it. I wanted to locate the sniper's position with this, but I can't tell at all!" (Celestis)

What's being shot is an air bullet, so there's no color and form after all.

More importantly...

"Let's prioritize a way to escape. Mirack-chan..." (Karen)

"What is it, Karen?!" (Mirack)

Mirack-chan continues protecting us with a wall of fire.

It feels like she is incredibly happy that I called her name.

"Can you move while still forming the wall of fire? If possible, I want us to

reach a cover where we can block the sniper.” (Karen)

“Easy peasy! If it’s for you, I can go all the way to the horizon!” (Mirack)

Aren’t you getting a bit over-exhilarated?

Well, it is better than not having energy, so let’s move slowly while being protected by Mirack-chan—

“...It doesn’t look like it will go so smoothly.” (Celestis)

“The surroundings be turning bad-dasu!” (Sasae)

It looks like Celestis-chan and Sasae-chan have noticed something.

“What? What happened?” (Karen)

Being pointed out this, I look at the surroundings.

We were already surrounded.

By several tens of people that looked pretty brawny. They all wore the same garments, and that’s exactly why I could tell at a glance that they are a coordinated team.

They don’t have any metallic-like armor on their bodies, but from their head to the toes, they were covered completely in cloth; clothing that screams stealth.

This is probably the Whirlwind Raid corp.

Beasts that had erased their presence, had now appeared with their fangs showing.

“This is bad. We are completely surrounded. The sniping until now must have been to buy time for this encirclement to be completed.” (Celestis)

“These numbers...it doesn’t feel like they are trying to keep us in place, it feels as if they are going to try killing us just like that. I can only think that the Wind Church has finally gone crazy.” (Mirack)

At our side, there’s the Founders and heroes, 4 of each -if we count Doraha, there’s 9 in total.

On the other side, there’s brawny people that can be called experienced

fighters.

“...Mirack-chan, at my signal, undo the wall of fire.” (Karen)

“Got it. Leave the vanguard to me. I have good affinity against them after all.”
(Mirack)

“With us being encircled like this, melee combat is unavoidable, so there’s no shit like vanguard here. Even so, Sasae-chi, take care while fighting, got it? Wind is the natural enemy of earth after all.” (Celestis)

“Gotcha-dasu! After the fight with Great Pillar-sama, I got trained by Sobochan. Now be the time to show demn results-dasu! It be my chance to raise a name for mahself in Rudras Metropolis-dasu yo!” (Sasae)

Could it be that the reason why the darkness of Sasae-chan has been thicker lately is because of the training with her Obaa-san?

“Celestis-chan also said this but, in this situation, melee combat is unavoidable. So there should be no worries about any sniping due to fear of friendly fire. Let’s not get distracted with defeating the enemies, and just as we planned at first, let’s aim to escape the Wind capital. Doraha-san.” (Karen)

“Yes?” (Doraha)

The dark skin girl here, Doraha-san.

“I want to request of you to be the bodyguard of the Founders. We will be opening the way.” (Karen)

“Understood.” (Doraha)

Haine-san is desperately fighting in the sky. We can’t just stay dilly-dallying here.

“Let’s go!” “Ou!” “Yes,ma’am!” “Dasu yo!”

Mirack-chan undid the wall of fire.

Using that as the signal, we instantly go on the offensive. Even if the Whirlwind Raid corps are the Wind Church’s military power, there’s no way normal soldiers would be able to defeat heroes.

Sorry but, I will be pushing you away!

“Guaaaaa!!”

It was at that moment...

That voice just now was Mirack-chan?!

“Are you okay, Mirack-chi?!” (Celestis)

“Yeah, I blocked it with fire divine power...but there’s still sniping?! Do they not fear hitting their allies?!” (Mirack)

The sniping doesn’t stop?

It was incorrect to change our strategy to match the melee combat.

But the Raid corps that were encircling us had come rushing at us as if it was a matter of course, and the melee combat begins just as we thought.

This is also just as we thought, but the members of the Raid corps are using wind divine power, even so, they are not that strong. In our eyes, they are not troublesome opponents, but...

“Hiaaaaa!! Dangerous-dasu!” (Sasae)

An air bullet scraped close to where Sasae-chan was standing. She was moving around, so it must have fortunately missed in the timing.

The sniping is really not stopping. Even when we are in melee combat, they have the confidence of hitting us without hitting their allies?!

Moreover, the bullets that are being shot are scarily accurate, and there have been practically no misses until now.

“Let there be hot-bloodedness!” (Enou)

“Master?! Are you okay?!” (Mirack)

“Let there be hot-bloodedness.” (Enou)

“I’m relieved! It hit the muscles in your chest so you were okay huh!” (Mirack)

The only ones who are okay being hit are the fire hero, Mirack-chan, and the Fire Founder-sama.

Those two that hold an elemental advantage against wind can simply clad a thin film of fire divine power and mitigate the air bullets.

But the others don't stand in the same advantage.

On the contrary, Sasae-chan and the Earth Founder-sama, that are weak against the wind element, can die instantly depending on where they are shot.

...Is what I thought when the Earth Founder Obaba-sama...

"...Hngh."

Slapped away the air bullet with the cane in her hand?!

"It be certainly a precise aim. But that's exactly why the line of the shot be way too honest."

"..."

The amazingness of this person is at a place that has nothing to do with divine power.

"Celestis-chan!!" (Karen)

I stand back-to-back with her who is fighting around with her Miki-Moses.

"The longer we fight, the more of a disadvantage we will be in!! We have to finish it in one go!" (Karen)

"Okay. We have grasped the situation plenty enough, right?! From here on, we are going to be steaming through!!" (Celestis)

Celestis-chan and I spoke in sync.

""[Mirage]!!"" (Karen+Celestis)

Chapter 159: Counterattack

From the spreading mist, several of us appear inside of it.

Light and water's combined element 'Mirage'.

Using the light to refract the small beads of water scattered in the air, mirror images are created -the power of illusions.

The illusions created inside the mist were not only those of Celestis-chan and I, there were also several of Mirack-chan, Sasae-chan, the Founder-samas as well.

“?!!” “?!!” “?!!”

The people of the Wind Raid corps didn't raise a single voice at all. It looks like even their silence and coordination between comrades was thorough. Do they have such strict laws?

Because of their garments that were covering their whole face, I can't tell their expressions, but I can tell plenty enough that they are agitated.

“!!!”

One of the Raid corps swung its knife at us, but...it was a miss.

Too bad. That was a mirror image.

The disturbance created by 'Mirage' is the most effective when in great numbers. Now that the attacks have stopped because of the confusion, this is our chance.

“Are you ready, Sasae?! Thanks to Karen and the extra, we have obtained time to concentrate!” (Mirack)

“Yes-dasu!! I be very sorry that I take more time to mix elements compared to the others-dasu!” (Sasae)

Further at the back, there's Mirack-chan and Sasae-chan sticking to each other, mixing their fire and earth elements.

With four heroes, we can support each other by using a combined element to

assist a combined element.

""[Magma Ocean]!!-dasu!!"" (Mirack+Sasae)

The floor that the two were standing on began to shine red. It then melted and turned into a muddy liquid as it undulates.

The lava attack that comes from the combined elements of fire and earth element 'Magma'.

The material for this training space floor was probably brought from a mountain somewhere. By the time it turns liquid, it has already reached over the thousand degrees in temperature. A natural weapon of dangerous degree.

"The earth element loses against the wind element, but I wonder what would happen when it is combined with the fire element that the wind element loses against?!" (Mirack)

"The element affinities be convenient-dasu!! With this, we can negate the wind element, and a barrier with plenty heat and wideness be completed-dasu!" (Sasae)

In the first place, the earth element that rules over the solids possesses defensive capabilities that surpasses that of the others.

In this instance, it was rendered powerless because of the affinity problem, but by mixing with the fire element, it came back in a more fearsome state.

"Hahaha! Anyone that wants to be covered in lava from the head down, come get us!!" (Mirack)

"Hiiih! Mirack-nee-chan! There be any need to turn in circles while holding me-dasu ka?!" (Sasae)

Mirack-chan had her arms around Sasae-chan's armpit, and with her left and right hands tightly held, she made big turns.

Matching those movements, the lava was whirling and waving.

"No matter what she says, Mirack-chan really does love Sasae-chan." (Karen)

"Are you saying small girls are her favorite treat?" (Celestis)

Celestis-chan says that with an amazed face.

I want to believe that the wide smile of Mirack-chan comes from her desire to protect Sasae-chan. That must be it.

Anyways, the lava attack of Mirack-chan and Sasae-chan has turned the tides of this situation to our side.

Because of the high temperature, the Whirlwind Raid corps people can't even get close. And the Founders are all surrounded at the inner part of the lava.

With that, there's no way they will be facing any harm.

The air bullets that are being shot from who-knows-where for a while now as well. Once it hits the wave of lava, it just turns to nothing.

"But...the most problematic one is still the sniper. Seriously, where is it shooting from?" (Celestis)

It is true that we don't know from where it is being shot at, and on top of that, it is quite precise. If it weren't for the fact that we used the advantage of Mirack-chan to the fullest, there would have been the chance that we would have been wiped out with just the sniping alone.

Even us who are outside of the lava bulwark have not been able to narrow down the location with 'Mirage' after all. We are simply somehow okay.

"That problem has also been solved already though. [Holy Light Blade]!!"
(Karen)

A line of light is shot from the holy sword, Saint-George. That travelled, further, further, and further away... and hits a space where there's nothing, and makes a *Pam* sound of an explosion.

"?!!"

And then, it appears, a person wearing the stealth costume of the Whirlwind Raid corps. Moreover, at its hand, it is holding a cylindrical instrument that seems to be similar to the one the Founder Shiva-san held.

"Uo?! Eh, what?! A person came out of nowhere!" (Celestis)

"It is the same as our 'Mirage', Celestis-chan. They probably poured wind divine power in the air and distorted the light in the place, in order to deceive us that there's nothing there." (Karen)

“And so, they sniped at us while hidden huh. I’m surprised you noticed, Karen-chi.” (Celestis)

“Even if I look like this, I am the light hero, you know? I can notice when a place has light that is unnaturally warped.” (Karen)

Let’s not say that I just found it by coincidence while we were channeling ‘Mirage’.

But even so, the sniper was at quite the faraway place from us. In order to reach all the way there, it would take us as much as us counting to 10 while running at full speed.

The air camouflage would have probably not worked unless it was from that faraway.

Even so, their precision from that faraway was a threat.

“I see. That nasty sniping was done by this person huh..... What, this person is the guide that was accompanying us from the very beginning.” (Celestis)

When the Founder Shiva-san went mad, the other guides had also disappeared, but to think we would find one hiding here.

“Karen.” (Mirack)

“Hiaa!! Mirack-chan?! What is it so suddenly?! You scared me!” (Karen)

Mirack-chan was suddenly right at my back.

“No well, you see, the bunch is suddenly surrendering. We can’t just slaughter them all, so right now, Sasae is tying them up.” (Mirack)

Eh? Why so suddenly?

It is true that the fight would turn one-sided now, but aren’t they surrendering way too fast?

“Well, isn’t that fine? With this, you could say the situation has changed once more. If things go well, we might be able to bring it all the way to a win!” (Celestis)

“What do you mean by that, Celestis-chan?” (Karen)

“We can have these guys tell us where the Founder hero is hidden in! In this

fight, as long as we capture the Founder Shiva, it will be our win! In the time Haine-chi is doing his best in the sky, we will bring down the inner citadel!”
(Celestis)

Saying this, Celestis-chan grabs the collar of one of the Whirlwind Raid corps and pulls it up.

It is the person that used the distortion of wind to hide and snipe us.

Because of the ‘Holy Light Blade’, its eyes are going in circles. I held back, so there should be no injuries though.

“Wow there, I will be confiscating your weapon. Karen-chi, hold it.” (Celestis)

“Wa?! Yes!” (Karen)

Celestis-chan throws the metallic cylinder at me.

They shot compressed air balls from here, but the one the Wind Founder Shiva-san used was the same type, yet the shape was quite different.

This gun is pretty long all around. It is longer than the blade of my holy sword, and it feels like an iron rod.

This person was using this gun to snipe from quite a distance away.

By making the cylinder longer, it makes it easier to aim at long range?

“Well then, I will have you spill it. Where’s your boss?” (Celestis)

Celestis-chan was threatening her, but the sniper-san was not speaking a single word.

These people have been silent from the very beginning after all.

It feels as if just trying to make them part their lips would be difficult, and in this situation where time is of essence, it might be harsh.

“Oh, you think you can keep silent in the face of this water hero, Celestis-chan? You’ve got quite the positive outlook there. Well, we don’t have much time but, let’s have a nice talk, okay?” (Celestis)

“U-Uhm, Celestis-chan? Don’t be too rough—” (Karen)

“First of all, let’s talk properly while looking at each other’s faces. Let’s take

off that mask and..." (Celestis)

Celestis-chan places her hand on the mask of the person, and takes it off all at once.

From inside the mask, long black hair flows down. Her bangs swung, and her thin eyebrows and long eyelashes were out in the open.

"Eh?"

"Eh?"

The sniper was a beauty that left us with our eyes wide open.

Chapter 160: Sylph

“Eh?” “Eh?” “C-Cute!!”

I, Celestis-chan, and Mirack-chan had our own reactions.

After defeating the military power of the Wind Church, the Whirlwind Raid corps, we tried taking off the mask of the most troublesome one in the group, the sniper, and what we saw was a girl –a pretty beautiful one.

The bridge of her nose drew a delicate arc, and her contours were thin and smooth.

Her black hair overlaps with that of Yorishiro-sama, but the one here has her hair tied up in a bundle and gives out a stoic impression.

“...Tch.” (Celestis)

“Celestis-chan, why are you clicking your tongue?!” (Karen)

“It is a trait of us idols. When we see a girl that is cuter than us, we end up wanting to click our tongues.” (Celestis)

“I don’t think that’s the case, you know?! You and her have their different kind of beauties, but you two are beauties nonetheless!” (Karen)

Celestis-chan is the shining type of beauty, and the person here is the refined type of beauty...maybe?

“...Umu, okay!” (Mirack)

Let’s not talk to Mirack-chan.

I can tell that things would turn complicated.

More importantly, I want to hear what this person has to say.

“Uhm, is it okay? There’s a few things I want to ask about—” (Karen)

“Kill me!!”

Eh?

This woman spoke her first words to us.

“I don’t have anything to say. Just kill me already.”

“No no no no no, we won’t kill you. We won’t do something that disturbing, and there’s something that we would want you to tell us!!” (Karen)

I want to hear about the hiding place of the Wind Founder Shiva.

We wanted to know no matter what.

“Fuh~, I finished tying ‘em all up-dasu yo~. I didn’t think mah skills of tying up straw hems would be coming in handy here-dasu~.” (Sasae)

Oh, Sasae-chan came back.

It looks like she finished restraining the Whirlwind Raid corps.

And then, she saw our dispute with this woman and...

“Oya? What be going on? Torture-dasu ka? Want me to tear off her fingernails-dasu ka?” (Sasae)

“We won’t be tearing anything off!” (Karen)

Sasae-chan return please!

“Hmph! So you won’t be letting me die that easily huh. Fine. Give me any kind of tortures you wish. But / won’t be saying anything unfavorable towards my brother.” <TL: she says ‘sessha’ which is ‘I’ in a samurai-like way>

“No no! Please don’t accept the situation so easily!” (Karen)

We won’t be doing any abuse here!

“...Hey, this girl just now...” (Celestis)

“Yeah, she acts tough, but she is a careless one.” (Mirack)

It looks like Celestis-chan and Mirack-chan are muttering something, but you two, please help me calm down this situation!

I can’t retort to all this on my own!

“Karen-san, Karen-san.” (Yorishiro)

“Wa?! Yorishiro-sama?!” (Karen)

Now that I think about it, I totally left them outside my peripheric, but the

Founders are all okay.

Mirack-chan and Sasae-chan were protecting them with lava after all.

“It looks like the Wind believer here has something to say.” (Yorishiro)

“Eh?”

I noticed that there’s one Raid corp member walking to where we are while still tied up.

In order to make it easier to speak to, that person also has his mask off, but it looks like this one is a normal man.

“I ask of you people. I will speak about what you want to know. That’s why, please don’t bring harm to this personage.”

“You bastard, have you lost it?!”

The woman bites heavily at the words of her comrade, but she can’t change the situation.

“Please forgive me. If something were to happen to you, that in itself would be something that wouldn’t allow me to face Shiva-sama!”

The Raid corp man was obedient.

In the time I was suffering with these comedy troupe here, how did Yorishiro-sama manage to make this man open up?

“Then, tell me this first.” (Celestis)

Celestis-chan asks first.

“This girl that you are going so far to protect, just who is she?” (Celestis)

The man, that had promised to say anything, left a space of silence before speaking.

“This personage is Toreido Hyue-sama. She is Founder Shiva-sama’s little sister, and is a gunner that would compete for first and second place in the Kazama Shinobis.”

“I see. So the ‘brother’ meant exactly that huh.” (Mirack)

“Looks like we have reeled a bigger fish than we expected.” (Celestis)

This is bad. Celestis-chan is making a face that's unfitting of an idol.

But Celestis-chan is not the only bad person here.

"...If push comes to shove, let's use this girl as bait to lure out the Wind Founder-sama." (Yorishiro)

"Yorishiro-sama?!" (Karen)

Yorishiro-sama nonchalantly says things that everyone would have a hard time saying!

I don't feel numb or admire that part of hers, okay?!

"For emergency situations, there be the need for emergency measures-dasu na?! Cool-dasu!!" (Sasae)

"And Sasae-chan, don't go getting influenced by this person! It definitely won't be good for your education!!" (Karen)

This is not good. Everyone is going crazy here!

My retorts won't be enough. Please return quickly, Haine-san!

"——PLEASE!!"

And while we were making a racket, the woman in question -Hyue-san- let out a desperate voice.

"Please! Only a small amount of time is fine. Please don't get in the way of Aniue-sama <brother>! Please let him achieve his objective!!" (Hyue)

"Eeeeeeh?"

We felt bewilderment at the supplication of Hyue-san.

"What's with that way of saying it? It is as if we are being made the bad guys here." (Celestis)

"The objective of the Wind Founder Shiva is to use the Mother Monster, control the the envoys of the five Churches, and bring calamity to the whole world. Do you think we would keep silent and let him achieve it?!" (Mirack)

I heard the sound of grinding teeth.

It was a loud sound that would make me wonder if the teeth would break

with that.

“You are wrong. Aniue-sama doesn’t intend to do that! He is actually an incredibly kind person. But that notice suddenly made Aniue-sama strange <the call for the conference>! In order to have Aniue-sama return to his former kind self, we have to defeat that man, and have Aniue-sama achieve his objective!!” (Hyue)

“That man?!” (Karen)

I wanted to hear in more detail, but when I tried to, someone interjected -it was Yorishiro-sama.

“...You really do love your brother dearly.” (Yorishiro)

“—!!”

Hyue-san must have felt a ghastly sensation from the casual tone of Yorishiro-sama. She falls silent.

“In that case, can you please tell us? Who is the one that Shiva-san is trying to defeat? What is it that the Wind Mother Monster mayhem is actually trying to achieve? Just what kind of human he truly is. Can you tell us?” (Yorishiro)

Chapter 161: At the summit

I continued cutting the black cloud that was covering the sky, and when the remaining left was less than a half, I -Kuromiya Haine-lowered to the ground.

Wind capital's headquarters, the Wind Grand Workshop. At the roof that was the highest part of it.

"You have finally appeared." (Haine)

There's only one reason why I lowered myself from the sky.

Because I found the objective I was searching for.

The Wind Church's Founder and hero, Toreido Shiva, and also the incarnation of the Wind God Quasar.

"I can take it as the 'hide and seek' is over, right?" (Haine)

The reason why he hid himself was because he himself is the control tower of the Wind Mother Monster, Beelzebub.

If the very culprit that created the demonic flies were to order them to stop, they should.

Knowing this, he disappeared from our sight in order to not be caught.

And yet, the reason why he appeared in front of me is...

"To think that you would be able to partially destroy my Beelzebub in less than half a day." (Shiva)

Shiva looks at the sky as he said this.

I could tell a sense of abandonment from those words.

"But Beelzebub and the Kazama Shinobis have done their job plenty well. They managed to stall the troops outside and the heroes that were the closest to you, and separated you from them. With this, we can truly have a one vs one." (Shiva)

"You...still want to fight?" (Haine)

"Of course. With just that superficial fight just now, don't think that you have

seen the whole of my 1,600 years of studies. I haven't shown you everything yet. All the power of a God and a human." (Shiva)

Shiva takes a stance with his pair of guns.

"Releasing divine power as the Wind God Quasar to a point that it would damage the flesh, I will smash you with all the abilities that this body has learned. The power of a God and the techniques of a human; at the time when it surpasses the limit, even I don't know what will occur! There's no opponent as fitting as you, Dark God Entropy, in smashing them with this!" (Shiva)

"That's why you went as far as using the Mother Monster to pull me away from the others? In order to have a true one vs one fight?" (Haine)

"Who knows. It is just that this fight between Gods that will be occurring now, it would be a waste to show it to humans." (Shiva)

I wonder how serious are those words?

It is true that a fight that will be utilizing the very depths of a God's power is something that can't be shown to humans.

It would reveal our identities, and the effects it would have on the human society would not be normal.

Also...

If a human were to get close to a clash between Gods, they would get dragged into it and won't leave a trace behind.

Could it be that Shiva was...

"Now! Take off that human body and come at me! A battle where the Wind God Quasar bets his all! I will take you on, summit of Gods!" (Shiva)

And in response to the enthusiastic Shiva, I...

"Don't wanna." (Haine)

I give out an immediate answer.

"What?!" (Shiva)

"I don't want to fight you. It is fine as long as you call off the flies that are clinging onto the humans." (Haine)

“Hmph, I knew you would say that. That’s why I had Beelzebub take control of the humans beforehand. What it means is that, if you want to save them, you have to fight me and defeat me!” (Shiva)

“Shiva!!” (Haine)

“I have prepared such a setup. If you pulverize this human body, Beelzebub will automatically fall, and the people who are controlled will be saved..... The objective of you guys at first was to subjugate the Mother Monsters, right? Isn’t that nice then? All your objectives have overlapped!” (Shiva)

So he calculated that far when he had the Mother Monster rampage?

All in order to have a serious fight with me?

“Even so, I don’t want that. I can’t fight you.” (Haine)

“You are still hesitating?!” (Shiva)

“Because you have already won against me.” (Haine)

“What?!” (Shiva)

He has already won.

Those words caught him by surprise.

“The proof of that is this city.” (Haine)

From the roof we are standing on, I was able to take a look at the cityscape of Rudras Metropolis.

I, who was high in the sky a while ago, was able to see it in a much bigger picture.

Giant constructions; they were all systematically sorted in divisions. The people there have come out to see what the uproar is all about, but even so, they are not panicking around.

It is proof of their utmost trust towards the rulers of this city, the Wind Church.

“You were the one that made this city, right? You gave birth to this city as a God, and raised this city as a Founder. That’s is something I couldn’t do in the 1,600 years I was sleeping.” (Haine)

“...You love humans from the bottom of your heart after all. You love humans, and tried to guide them, but because of the seal, you couldn't do that..... This Rudras Metropolis is exactly what you wanted to make!” (Shiva)

So you get it.

““What you wanted to do but couldn't, I was able to. That's why it is my win', is that what you are saying?!What about it?!” (Shiva)

Shiva said this with a face as if scoffing.

“I created this city in order to defeat you. In terms of pure God power, there's no one who can stand up against you. Resisting the shame, I tried to device a new power to defeat you. This city is my laboratory for experimentation. For several centuries, I have been polishing my power to defeat you. But I couldn't reach it.” (Shiva)

“That shouldn't be the only thing that you obtained from this city!” (Haine)

The several centuries he lived at the Wind Church. Just how many humans were born and how many died? The Wind God Quasar should have been living together with them all this time.

“Shiva, this is not the only time that you have incarnated as a human, right?” (Haine)

“.....The moment I died, I would soon incarnate into a baby in this city again. I have been living in this Wind Church practically without pause. I don't remember accurately how many times I have incarnated anymore.” (Shiva)

“No wonder the Gods weren't able to catch your whereabouts.” (Haine)

“And what about it?! How many times do I have to say it before you understand?! For me, this place is only a laboratory to experiment ways to obtain the power to defeat you! The humans that live here are just assistants in my research, and are more like guinea pigs. Stop it with your naive way of thinking as if everything is a flower field!” (Shiva)

“I saw this city from the sky. The city is ordered methodically like a Go board. It is a bit of a suffocating place, but that's just how you are. Even so, there's hospitals, schools, and facilities for recreation like parks.” (Haine)

Wind Founder Shiva... Wind God Quasar...

“If you really thought of the people here as guinea pigs, you wouldn’t made such buildings. I can tell. The humans, you actually—” (Haine)

“Aniue-sama!!”

The words I was about to continue had been interrupted by someone.

When I turn around, someone shows up from the stairs to the roof. Probably a woman I have met for the first time.

And there’s also Karen-san following right behind.

“Haine-san!!” (Karen)

“Karen?! Why are you here by yourself?!” (Haine)

Karen-san runs to me.

On the other hand, the woman I have seen for the first time runs towards Shiva.

“Haine-san! The Founder-samas have all escaped Rudras Metropolis, and are heading towards the troops of their respective faction to regroup with them. Mirack-chan, Celestis-chan, and Sasae-chan are together with them as bodyguards!” (Karen)

Are you fine being here then, Karen-san?

“Yorishiro-sama is together with Doraha-san. They have headed to where the Aurora Knight corps are. Yorishiro-sama actually wanted to come here as well, but she said she can’t abandon her comrades...” (Karen)

I am relieved that her common sense as a Founder is still working!

“And so...I have a message from Yorishiro-sama to Haine-san.” (Karen)

“Yes?” (Haine)

“The key to open the heart of the Wind Founder Shiva-sama is that person there, she said!” (Karen)

I follow the gaze of Karen-san, and there, there’s the mysterious woman that appeared suddenly.

Is it my imagination that her appearance resembles that of Shiva?

“She is the little sister of the Founder Shiva-san, Hyue-san.” (Karen)

“Little sister?!” (Haine)

Well, yeah, even if he is the incarnation of a God, that doesn’t mean he was born from the ground. He has parents, so obviously, there’s the possibility of having siblings.

Even if they are siblings of an incarnator, the other side will be actual proper humans. They will have the soul of a human, and in a spiritual sense, they have no connections to a God at all.

But humans don’t connect with others simply spiritually.

A blood connection is also a splendid connection between hearts.

“...Haine-san, there’s something I want you to hear.” (Karen)

“Yeah?” (Haine)

“This is something I heard from Hyue-san just a few moments ago but... Yorishiro-sama wanted me to tell Haine-san just how the current Wind capital, Rudras Metropolis, was created and how they have continued existing until now. She said it was really important.” (Karen)

The birth of the Wind capital, and its development.

That in itself is the personal history of the 1,600 years of the Wind God Quasar.

Chapter 162: Next path of the Wind

This is the story that has been passed down in the Wind scriptures; the story of the beginnings of the Wind Church.

The person that was the founder of the Wind Church, was said to be a person that had no place to call a homeland and lived a nomadic life, moving from one settlement to other.

Leading a group of people that had no place as well, they had a long journey in search of a land where they can live peaceably.

But they were not accepted anywhere, and their journey with no destination continued.

By the time he was beginning to think that he would become a corpse on the roadside...a God appeared.

The God introduced itself.

‘I am the Wind God Quasar’.

The God that governs over wind can’t give them a land for them to live peacefully. But blowing a tailwind on them on their journey, it could protect the travellers.

‘If you revere me as your God, I will blow wind that protects you wanderers. I will provide you with a place at the other side of the wind’.

And so, the founder of the Wind accepted that proposal, and the nomads there had become the Wind Church.

A miracle happened soon after.

Right after they received the oracle, the wife of the founder that was unable to have a child for a long time had conceived a child, and a healthy boy was born.

The treasured son of the founder was smart and wise since very young, and when he became an adult, he was the strongest and smartest in the church; he became an excelling leader.

The Wind Church began to develop and grow to be the true Wind Church in essence when this man had become the Founder.

By that time, the Earth, Water, Fire, and Light Churches had begun to take form as well. They pressed forward in seeking for new believers, and increased their influence followed by their military power.

From within those, the Wind Church, which was the weakest and smallest of them, took advantage of not having a set base to appear and disappear, making sport of the churches that tried to oppose them.

Even when time passed, the Wind Church continued having excellent Founders, and in the state where the five Churches competed with each other, they continued holding a peculiar spot for themselves.

In time, ethereal was discovered, and with the decision of the Founders at that time, the research began as soon as possible.

Following the orders of the successive Founders and utilizing the know-hows of the varied fields as time went on, they finally completed the moving city, Rudras Metropolis.

At that time, the wind people finally obtained a land to live in.

The Wind had reached their goal.

“...Apparently, Shiva-san is the first Founder since the time this moving city was completed.” (Karen)

Karen-san tells me the story just as she was told probably from the girl called Hyue.

“He took the initiative to lead the Church that was completely new in all aspects, and kept in order the Wind Church that had stopped being nomadic, and yet, still continue being wanderers. For the people of Rudras Metropolis, Shiva-san is an incredibly popular Founder-san, they say!” (Karen)

On the other side, Shiva was being clung onto by her little sister Hyue.

“Aniue-sama! Please tell them the truth!” (Hyue)

The sudden appearance of his little sister had made Shiva silent.

“Lately, you have been gathering information from the Kazama Shinobis that you have spread around various places, and I could tell that the more information you gathered, the grimmer your expression got. And then, when the call from the Founder came this time around, it was if you had been waiting for it!” (Hyue)

There was something that bothered me from what those two were talking about.

“Kazama?” (Haine)

“It is apparently the official name of the Wind Church’s military power, the Whirlwind Raid corps. Kazama means spies of the Wind. They fight as well, but more than that, they infiltrate the other churches, and their main duty is to steal information. Thanks to that, we don’t know anything about the Wind Church, and yet, the Wind Church knows a variety of things about us, it seems.” (Karen)

They had such a system...

In that case, could it be that the battles with the Fire Cow Phalaris, the Hydra Serpent, and Grandma Wood had reached the ears of Shiva as well?

If that really is true...if in that, he had information of a man that controlled a black substance...

“I don’t understand why Aniue-sama is so concerned with that man called Kuromiya Haine. But Aniue-sama has never said anything wrong until now. That’s why this time as well, in order to create a one vs one, we have taken the role of stalling the Founders and heroes of the other churches. But...!!” (Hyue)

Hyue’s expression changes into one of pain.

It was as if she had resolved herself as she continued her words.

“The people of the outside said this! The identity of the ‘Wind Barrier’ is...a fiendish monster! They said that Aniue-sama is using it to destroy the world! I don’t want to believe that. But...But—!!” (Hyue)

“Hyue!!” (Shiva)

Shiva stopped his sister who was trying to say more.

The tone of voice that he followed with was as if saying that he wouldn't allow her to get in the way, and at the same time, it felt as if he was being considerate of not hurting the other party.

"I...am trying to finish a duty of mine. A duty that I have been continuing for a long time. Entr—I mean, Kuromiya Haine, what you want to know is the way to stop Beelzebub, right?" (Shiva)

"Yeah." (Haine)

Since the words had changed direction towards me, I answer.

"Stopping it is easy. As long as I order them, they will obey. But with just that, the situation won't be resolved." (Shiva)

"What?!" (Haine)

"Beelzebub is an army of billions, and yet, it is one monster. It is not that each one of them has a will of its own. They possess a joint will shared through an element wave. They are an army, yet, the reason why they are able to obey my orders all at once is because of this." (Shiva)

"And what of it? Don't beat around the bush!" (Haine)

"That joint will through elemental wave isn't perfect. When it separates from the swarm, and goes out of the effective range of the joint will, that individual will lose its will as Beelzebub. If they are caught in something and are cut off from the elemental wave, they will end up in that same state as well." (Shiva)

"Wa?! Then, could it be...!!" (Haine)

The flies that have invaded the bodies of the humans and are currently the most pressing issue right now are...!!

"Just as you have concluded, the ones that have usurped the body of the humans, due to being inside the body, they have separated from the will of Beelzebub. And so, those ones will faithfully follow the last order they received." (Shiva)

"The order of filling the usurped humans with eggs?!" (Haine)

“That’s right. The time they leave the body of the humans is when they have executed their order. In other words, when the eggs hatch, they will come out together with the monsters that eat their way out of the host.” (Shiva)

Then there’s no point!

Most of the troops outside Rudras Metropolis must have been usurped by Beelzebub already.

Are you saying that those people have no choice but to be the seedbed of the flies and die?!

“There’s only one way though. It is not to control Beelzebub, but to kill it.” (Shiva)

“Kill it?! Is it possible?!” (Haine)

“Beelzebub is one and many. Each one of the billions of flies have their own body, but they are just one; there’s one individual that stands on top of all the flies. It can be considered the Lord of Flies.” (Shiva)

“As long as I defeat that, all of Beelzebub will die. Is that what you are saying? The humans outside that have been usurped by flies as well without exception? Then let’s find that Lord of Flies and defeat it! As fast as possible!” (Haine)

Karen-san who was listening to the talk also joined on the plan. Well then, the next problem is where this Lord of Flies is...

“There’s no need to look for it.” (Shiva)

Shiva says.

“The Lord of Flies is here. Inside of me; inside my heart.” (Shiva)

Saying this, Shiva points at the left side of his chest.

“Kuromiya Haine, if you want to get rid of Beelzebub and save the people outside, pierce my heart, and erase the Lord of Flies. With that, everything will end. Everything.” (Shiva)

Chapter 163: An attack to end it all

“Heart?! Why is it in such a place?!” (Haine)

(Didn’t I say so? That’s the kind of setup I prepared.) (Quasar)

Words that are not voiced out, words that are transmitted through the soul waves.

That Shiva, he is going to talk about something that he doesn’t want Karen-san and Hyue to hear.

(In order to have you fight me seriously, I made it so everything that resolves it will overlap with my death. That’s why I left the Lord of Flies here.) (Quasar)

Shiva once again taps on his left chest.

“No way! Then, in order to completely stop Beelzebub—!!” (Hyue)

“We have to hit Shiva-san’s heart too?!” (Karen)

The conclusion it led to had made Karen-san and Hyue tremble in fear.

“You can’t! You definitely can’t!! There must be a way to—!!” (Hyue)

“The Lord of Flies is inside my heart. Earth, Water, Fire, Wind, Light; no matter what element is used, it is not possible to conveniently destroy only the Lord of Flies. Haine, that goes for your dark divine power too.” (Shiva)

Shiva’s gaze is directed straight at me.

The waves of the soul once again undulate.

(This is...my way of putting an end to things.) (Quasar)

Shiva...the Wind God Quasar said.

(The first time I felt that humans were a threat was soon after the history of humans began. The time when the Dark Underworld Country fell. On the verge of destruction, the rage of a single human had begun eating away light, and was becoming bigger without limits.) (Quasar)

The shadow hero, Doraha huh.

Learning the technique to change the light divine power to shadow from the Queen Izanami, she was a combatant with no equal.

But she went on a rampage because of the grief of her falling country, and ended up becoming the very embodiment of a shadow that devours all light.

(We four Base Elements couldn't do anything about that. If Inflation hadn't appeared in a hurry to seal it, the world would have fallen at that point. At that moment, I felt the fearsomeness of humans. If I were to research that, I wondered if I could defeat you, Entropy.) (Quasar)

That's why you made contact with the humans, is that what you are trying to say?

(At that time, I was also told about the power of prayers by Inflation, and I got more and more into humans. I incarnated as a human on my own will, even imitated what Inflation did; learned from humans, and sipped on the power the humans gave to me. It was all for the sake of winning against Entropy..... But...) (Quasar)

That guy's face...Shiva's face smiled in self-derision.

(...It is just as you say. I at some point in time ended up loving humans. Living together with them, fighting together with them, and the city that was raised through ups and downs; not only did this become irreplaceable for the humans, it also became irreplaceable for me.) (Quasar)

Wind capital, Rudras Metropolis.

The city that the Wind God and Wind people created by supporting each other.

(But even so, I am a God. I can't do something as shameful as bending my original intention. The Wind Church that I raised in order to defeat you, this Rudras Metropolis that exists to defeat you; the moment I learned about your return, I couldn't not challenge you..... And so, today I was splendidly defeated.) (Quasar)

I felt that the image I had of him was slowly being changed.

From the beginning, this guy didn't have any intentions in destroying the

humans. Even if he had fallen into despair after being defeated by me, he had no intentions of dragging the humans down with him.

That's not the reason why he had Beelzebub go on a rampage.

(You...wanted me to kill you?) (Entropy)

(...)

(In order to corner me into having no options but to do that, you prepared Beelzebub?) (Entropy)

(If I can't surpass you in those 1,600 years I devoted myself, I wanted to at least fall by your hands.) (Quasar)

This conversation is something I can't have Hyue and Karen-san hear no matter what.

He thought that if he were to threaten me to destroy the humans, I who loves humans from the depths of my heart, would kill Shiva in order to stop that.

Did you really think that?

(The Wind Church has already obtained their promised land that is Rudras Metropolis. There's already no need for me to stay. Humans would end up relying too much on Gods. The last selfishness I have is -Dark God Entropy-to be put to an end by the ultimate God. After killing this body, you can seal or erase or do whatever you want to my God self as well.) (Quasar)

The sounds of the soul stopped.

"...Now, if you are going to do it, you better be fast. The flies that have usurped the humans' bodies will finish laying all the eggs after a day. If that happens, even if you were to wipe out Beelzebub, it would be pointless."
(Shiva)

"Fine." (Haine)

A swirl of dark matter is released from both of my hands.

"Haine-san?!" (Karen)

"What are you doing?! Stop it!" (Hyue)

Without giving any time for Karen and Hyue to stop me, both of my hands hit

the chest of Shiva.

“[Dark Matter, Set]” (Haine)

Shiva was blown away by the impact.

He falls face-up on the floor powerless.

At the same time as this happened, an overwhelming change occurred in the sky.

The black army of flies -those guys that still covered the sky even when I had erased close to half of them-began dying away as if in sync with Shiva.

I could even hear the sound of each and every one of the flies vanishing.

Several millions were occurring consecutively, so with only just that, it was enough to ring in my ears.

But their destruction was occurring practically at the same time, so the sound soon stopped.

The black lid disappeared, and the sky spread through our vision.

“...Beelzebub has died. That means—!!” (Karen)

“Aniue-sama!! Aniue-sama!!” (Hyue)

Hyue clings onto the body of Shiva.

“No, Aniue-sama! Please don’t die!! No, no!! Uwaaaaaaa!!” (Hyue)

The evil in Rudras Metropolis is gone now.

The people that had their body usurped by the flies at the surroundings of the city must be regaining their consciousness right about now.

The fight has finished.

“Haine-san!” (Karen)

Karen-san looks at me as if biting at me.

She didn’t say anything, but her gaze was as if shouting ‘why did you kill him?!’.

If I hadn’t defeated Shiva...the Lord of Flies inside of him, the situation

couldn't be salvaged.

Because Karen-san knew this, she couldn't criticise me straight on, even so, there's no way she would obediently accept it.

That's why I simply accepted that glare.

It was beginning to hurt me already, so I speak.

"...How long are you planning on laying down there?" (Haine)

Chapter 164: Wind's direction

Someone got up –while patting the head of the clinging Hyue.

“?!!!”

Seeing this, Karen-san makes a face as if she saw a zombie.

“Shiva-san is alive?! What?!” (Karen)

Shiva that should have been dead after being pierced in the heart got up as if nothing had happened, and it looks like Karen-san is in big confusion right now.

“Haine! You—!!” (Shiva)

Shiva himself seems to be bewildered. Looks like he himself doesn't know why he is alive.

Well, that's understandable.

The Lord of Flies, that served as the core of Beelzebub and was lodged inside the heart of Shiva, was supposed to be destroyed along with the outside after all.

Let's explain it to him then.

“...The second property of dark matter, Gravity Manipulation.” (Haine)

“?”

“By using that property, I released a gravity blade at a single direction. Should I call it a gravity laser? It was a laser that I adjusted its power in order to not destroy the body. That penetrated the flesh, and -Shiva-your body was penetrated without harming it.” (Haine)

“And you used that to destroy the Lord of Flies, you say? But if it doesn't destroy the flesh, then it should be able to penetrate the Lord of Flies in the same way and not destroy it.” (Shiva)

Shiva stands up staggering.

Even if he is weakened, it looks like he still has the guts to give out questions that sound like complains.

“That’s right. That’s why I released a gravity blade from two points, my right and left hand.” (Haine)

I show both of my hands that are still smouldering.

The gravity blade that came out from two points entered the body of Shiva, crossed over inside his body, and drew an x.

At the intersection point, the Lord of Flies was there.

If it’s one blade, the gravity blade wouldn’t be able to harm matter, but once two overlap, it can show power that surpasses that.

At the place where two gravity blades overlap, the Lord of Flies was crushed and died.

Without hurting any other parts.

“Kuromiya Haine! You really are...!!” (Shiva)

While being supported by Hyue, Shiva comes to where I am.

Even if I held back, his body was hit with dark matter, so there’s no way the damage would be zero.

“Toreido Shiva.” (Haine)

Wind God Quasar.

“I will say it once more. You think you couldn’t win against me. But in my perspective, I have already lost. You really got me right in your palms in a lot of cases.” (Haine)

I grabbed his collar and forcefully brought him close to me.

You saw the potential of humans, and in order to reach out to it, you got close to humans, and in the end, lived together with them.

Opening way to a new civilization, leading a group, sharing joys and sorrows, you have lived together with humans all the way until now.

Those are things I wanted to do.

In the 1,600 years I was sealed, you have fulfilled that wish of mine more than I could have expected!

“This city, the people living in it! It is the very thing I wanted to make! You went and stole the march to make it, and yet, you say you lost?! It is the contrary! I am filled with a sense of defeat right now! This land that you have made, the things you gave form to, are things that are leaps and bounds superior to that of a title like ultimate God!” (Haine)

It is splendid.

Releasing Shiva’s collar, he staggered back around three steps, and his back was once again supported by Hyue.

“.....I have lost.” (Shiva)

“Aniue-sama?” (Hyue)

Ignoring for now Hyue who was making a dubious expression, Shiva mutters.

“As expected, I don’t think I can possibly be able to compare to you. To think you would be able to make my defeat shine with so much worth. Rudras Metropolis!” (Shiva)

At the top of the Wind Church’s headquarters, we look down at the cityscape.

“A shining defeat huh. Sounds like a joke.” (Shiva)

“Like I said, that’s not it. Call it a victory.” (Haine)

The two girls look at us in confusion, at the two of us that stand side by side.

At any rate, with this, the incident at the Wind capital, Rudras Metropolis, has reached a conclusion.

After the fight concluded, we were completely exhausted and didn’t feel like moving.

We were staying at the penthouse of a hotel at the Wind Church’s multistoried division.

At a place a bit far away, Karen-san and Hyue were conversing.

“...Blue sky.” (Hyue)

“What’s the matter, Hyue-san?” (Karen)

“It is my first time seeing it. I have never left Rudras Metropolis once in my life, and Rudras Metropolis has been covered by the Wind Barrier since I can remember.” (Hyue)

“Seriously?! That’s not good! Hyue-san needs to learn about more things!” (Karen)

Voices that were high and cheerful enough to melt the brain were ringing in our ears.

“Looks like there’s still room for improvement in this metropolis.” (Shiva)

“Hm.” (Haine)

But now that it is over and I properly look back at it, the very first objective we had, the subjugation of the Mother Monster, has been completed, so it should be a result worthy of celebration.

Wind Mother Monster, Beelzebub.

Several billions of flies created a swarm, and they were all one monster as a whole.

It seems like they move at different locations to lay eggs that gave birth to wind element monsters, but now, that will stop.

“But you, why is it that you used a Mother Monster as a barrier? Could it be that you wanted to gain faith with it just like Mantle did?” (Haine)

“Don’t joke around. For me, Mother Monsters are something I don’t care about. It is simply something I created due to the relationship I have with the Base Elements, and because it would serve as a way to temper the members of the Wind Church. The reason why I used Beelzebub as a Wind Barrier was simply because I was giving use to what I had at hand.” (Shiva)

“I see.” (Haine)

It is quite the dangerous talk here but...Karen-san and Hyue shouldn’t be able to hear it with them concentrating on their own conversation, right?

“But Entr—no, Kuromiya Haine, you are not thinking that you have defeated Beelzebub with this, right?” (Shiva)

“Eh? Is that not the case?” (Haine)

“It may have been the core and its Lord, but a Mother Monster that would be wiped out just by crushing one fly would be way too brittle, don’t you think? In case something like this happened, I properly created an insurance.” (Shiva)

Eeh?

And here I thought it would be over.

“Beelzebub has laid a special egg somewhere, and has it hidden. It is called the ‘Green Emperor Egg’ you see. Once the Lord of Flies dies, it will automatically hatch, and a new Lord will be born.” (Shiva)

“...Then, as long as I don’t destroy that one too...” (Haine)

“No matter how many times you defeat it, you will go right back where you started.” (Shiva)

What’s...with...that?

I finally felt accomplished for a moment there, and yet, that has all gone out flying and was replaced by an exhaustion that was multiplied by several times.

“...But it will take some time before the ‘Green Emperor Egg’ hatches out after the death of the Lord of Flies. If you crush the egg before that happens, Beelzebub will meet its true end. Let’s do that immediately.” (Shiva)

Is what Shiva says as he stands up swaying around.

“Eh? Is that fine? Crushing the Mother Monster.” (Haine)

“Did you not listen to what I said? I don’t care about Mother Monsters. But as the Wind Founder, there’s no benefit in me going against the consensus of the five Churches. I will be having those flies take their leave in duty.” (Shiva)

What a cool way of thinking as a Founder.

He has lived a long life as a human, so he must not feel it as pressing that the faith humans have of him as a God is lowering.

In the first place, I feel like he has obtained a lot more religious faith from the humans compared to the other Gods.

“...From now on, if we deepen our friendship with the other churches, there

will be no need for something like a Wind Barrier after all.” (Shiva)

“Hm? What did you say just now?” (Haine)

Shiva said something under his breath, as if speaking to himself.

At this very moment, the wind is trying to change its direction.

Chapter 165: The calamity doesn't end

"And so, where is that egg-san?" (Haine)

"At the bottom of this Rudras Metropolis' base. I made it so it wouldn't be possible to find it in normal circumstances, but I am an exception. They can't hide anything from me." (Shiva) Well, you are the very God that created them after all.

We continue talking about this situation that would normally be quite troublesome without the God himself guiding.

"...But what should we do about the girls there? Bringing them with us is a bit..." (Haine)

"We can just make a random reason to move on our own. I am the Wind Founder, you know. I am in a position that can order people around." (Shiva)

That's true, but after rampaging as much as you wanted, it is a bit hard to swallow that you are actually a Founder, you know.

But even so, we will be going there to cut off the last line that Beelzebub left, the obvious questions that Karen-san and company would ask would be 'What is that egg?' 'How did you find it?' which are the obvious questions that will come, and trying to answer them would be a pain.

".....Haine-san, Haine-san." (Karen)

"Yes, this is Haine." (Haine)

Is what I was thinking when Karen-san spoke to me.

"U-Uhm, what is that egg?" (Karen)

Eh?

From the mouth of Karen-san, the question that would be incredibly troublesome if asked had come out.

Why now?

I thought that she would ask of this when we have moved to a different place

though?

“?!!”

I turn at the strangeness of that question, and there really was an egg.

It was floating in the air.

I could tell at one glance that it was giving vibes different from that of a chicken egg. It had a more soft membrane-looking shell; an insect egg.

And as if it had telekinetic powers, it was floating in the air.

Its surface was completely green, like that of an emerald, and a transparency that felt as if it was breed underwater.

And so...

“Oi...could it be that’s the Green Emperor Egg?” (Haine) “Y-Yeah! But why is it at a place like this?! In order for the Green Emperor Egg to not be caught in the eye of anyone, I hid it at the shadows of the base of Rudras Metropolis. The size as well! It is an egg to give birth to Beelzebub, you know? It should be as big as the tip of the pinky finger!” (Shiva)

But we were able to notice the egg that is floating right now in front of our very eyes immediately, and I can even feel an ominousness that is overwhelming.

This size is enough to hold a whole human inside.

“...Kuromiya Haine! Attack the Green Emperor Egg!! If it’s your dark matter, you should be able to return anything to nothingness!” (Shiva)

“Why me?! You can do it. You know everything about that thing, right?!” (Haine)

“And I have judged that the best way is to use your dark matter! Or more like, I also don’t understand this situation! Like hell I would be able to finish off that disgusting thing with my own hands!” (Shiva)

“This bastard spilled out his real feelings!” (Haine) In the time Shiva and I were making a ruckus, the situation progressed.

Probably to the worst path.

“...Who are you?”

That voice send shivers down the spine of Shiva, Karen-san, Hyue, and I.

“That voice just now...” (Karen)

“It wasn’t the voice of anyone here, right? Then, just now was—!!” (Haine)

From that egg?

“Right back at you! Just what are you?!”

As if by reflex, someone asked back.

“I... who am I?”

The egg asks once more.

But that question was not directed at anyone; it was a question directed at itself.

“I see... so mother died. That’s why I will be born. I will move towards the fate that has been established for me.”

The egg that was covered in a dark green membrane began to flicker.

Something was about to happen.

“I have been thinking for a long time. Why were we born?”

“What?!”

“For all living beings, there should be a reason for their birth. There should be meaning in their life. I was thinking of that reason. As I thought of this, several thousands to millions of my brethrens died. There was no point in us.”

The flickering sensation of the egg steadily became stronger.

The light itself increased in potency.

“We were born pointlessly, and died pointlessly. I began to wonder, ‘aren’t we pointless from the very beginning?’. No no no no no no no no no no no no no no no no no.”

As if displaying the emotions of the owner of that voice, the light became stronger.

...Emotions?

“We are also alive. We are alive, so we have to do something. I have been thinking. I have been thinking all this time. As I continued my thinking, mother gave birth to me.”

A cracking noise resounded.

The sound of something breaking.

At the same time as that happened, a single tear ran through the giant green egg.

“In order to find the answer, just thinking about it won’t make the answer appear. I must take action. In order to take action, I need a body. A body that is the strongest and the mightiest. That is me. I who was given birth by my demonic mother.”

From the crack that ran at the middle of the egg, something was coming out from it.

Wings?

Butterfly wings?!

“I was born for the sake of leading all of the demonic beings. I was born from a demonic mother in order to give meaning to the demonic beings that had pointless flesh and received pointless deaths. My demonic mother poured all of her life into me, and gave birth to me.”

The dark green eggshell broke in several small pieces, and what was inside was revealed.

It was a child.

A child that was small in height.

He looked like a child that had nothing strange at all, but there was a single thing that was abnormal. From his back, he had butterfly wings of erratic design.

And then, the child speaks.

He continues the words he had been speaking of until now.

“After a hundred years, we demons have obtained the ability to think, and seek for meaning. I am the means for that end, the means for that step. In order to lead my brethrens that still hold no soul to what lies further beyond, I have been born to become their Lord. In other words, I am...”

He is...!

“The Demon Lord.”

He continued.

“I am the Wind Demon Lord, Raphael. That is my name, my meaning, and what I have to do.” (Raphael)

Chapter 166: Birth of a Demon

Wind Demon Lord, Raphael.

This mysterious child that suddenly appeared certainly did introduce himself as so.

His look is indeed small and frail, a child with a pure face you could find anywhere, but the butterfly wings that spread from his back were abnormal. Moreover, he came out from the egg that was called Green Emperor Egg.

Originally, that egg should have given birth once again to the Wind Mother Monster, Beelzebub, right?

“Are you...a monster?” (Shiva)

The one who asked this of the child the fastest was Shiva.

“...Monster. That is how the humans call us. I -Raphael-if asked if I am a monster or not, I only have one answer... that’s right.” (Raphael)

At that answer, everyone here had their skin shiver.

“I am the one who was born to become the leader of the wind element monsters, Demon Lord Raphael.” (Raphael)

“Impossible!” (Shiva)

Shiva shouts as if in madness.

“A monster has taken the form of a human and can speak?! There’s no way a monster with such intelligence exists! I have not ma—!!!” (Shiva)

Saying until that part, Shiva’s mouth shuts.

There’s Karen-san and Hyue close by. He must have felt that he needed to be careful with his words as the Wind God Quasar.

“...Foolish human. All things face vicissitudes. They don’t stay at one state of being. From that change, they will look at higher heights, and walk the path of evolution. Don’t think that is a privilege of only you humans. That’s nothing but arrogance.” (Raphael)

The Demon Lord that calls himself Raphael says this as if spitting those words out.

“We monsters also evolve and walk forward. And the result is as you see before your eyes. The Demon Lord Raphael. My mother, Beelzebub, lived for close to a hundred years, and after experiencing several thousands to millions to billions of experiences, she obtained the ability to think, she obtained sentience. And so, she began to question what we were, and for what reason we exist.” (Raphael)

“What...did you say?!” (Shiva)

From the looks of Shiva’s shock, I can tell that not even the God himself was expecting this.

“And so, the Mother Monster had reached a temporary conclusion: ‘I can’t reach the answer myself’. That’s why mother gave birth to me. The next generation in order to obtain the answer. The parents ask, and the child answers. That is the basis of evolution for living beings. Therefore, I will be the bearer of a new era for us monsters. I will fulfill that duty.” (Raphael)

“What are you planning on doing?” (Haine)

This time, I ask Raphael.

It was so sudden, moreover, a situation that was so unexpected, my thoughts had still not caught on yet. Even so, I have no choice but to understand it. I have to know what it is that will be occurring from now on.

By the way, Karen-san and Hyue were completely unable to follow and were staring blankly.

“You will become the one who guides monsters, you will create a new era for the monsters; I understand that. But what is it you are going to do exactly in order to reach that objective of yours? Do you have a plan?” (Haine)

“Of course.” (Raphael)

The Demon Lord Raphael says.

“We exterminate you humans.” (Raphael)

A shock ran through my body.

From the mysterious and unknown existence, hostility was directed at us for the first time.

“In the first place, we monsters have been given that duty by some unknown being. ‘Oppose humans’, ‘Attack humans’. I don’t know from who this order is, but since the moment we were born, it has been edged deep down in our self. We act with that as our base of action.”

“That is—!!” (Shiva)

Shiva wanted to say something, but Raphael ignored it and continued.

“In this surface world, there’s no need for two supreme rulers. That’s why, we will carry out the duty that is edged deeply inside our self for our own sake. We will eradicate the humans, and when the world has become ours completely, the meaning of our existence should be visible.” (Raphael)

The butterfly wings at the back of Raphael spread.

And then, they flap.

With just that simple action, four tornadoes were created from all four sides of Raphael.

“Wa?!”

“Evade it, it is dangerous!” (Haine)

“Kyaaaaa!!!”

We were flustered by the rampaging tornadoes, but their target wasn’t us. The tornadoes move as they undulated, and scatter to their respective directions.

“To begin with, let’s destroy the city that is at my feet. Without leaving a single one alive, without leaving a single piece of rubble behind. Turning everything related to humans to ashes, we will use that as the foundation stone for the new era of us monsters!” (Raphael)

“Rudras Metropolis is—!!” (Haine)

This is bad.

All the tornadoes that Raphael released are calamity class. What it swallows,

whether it is human or a building, it will mow it down.

Is it exactly because he was born from the Wind Mother Mother, and he himself is calling himself the Wind Demon Lord that he is able to show power in such shape?

But even so, being able to create four tornadoes of such power is abnormal.

Managing such feat in one flutter is not possible for humans or monsters.

His power...is already stepping into the realm of Gods?!

“You bastard!!!” (Shiva)

Shiva kicks the ground, and faces Raphael who is suspended in mid-air with his big wings.

Unsheathing his Wind Twin Guns, Fuuma Koutarou, he fired air bullets, but they were stopped by an invisible wall.

“A wall of air?! Don’t underestimate me!!” (Shiva)

Being hit multiple times by the wind twin guns, the wall of air was destroyed, and Shiva closed onto Raphael.

“Stop it! Stop it right now!! The ones who ordered you monsters to attack humans were the Gods! But the Gods didn’t wish for humans to be eradicated! What you are trying to do is a deviation of duty!!” (Shiva)

“Gods... The ones you humans call the five Gods of Creation? Idiotic. What about it?” (Raphael)

Raphael’s attitude was cold.

“No matter who was the one who ordered us, we were the ones who decided on destroying the humans. It was our will. Deciding on your own actions is a natural privilege of living beings. Even if your Gods are our creators as well, they can’t violate our privilege!!” (Raphael)

“Guwaaa?!!” (Shiva)

The squall that Raphael caused blew away Shiva.

Right before Shiva hit the floor, I caught him.

“Are you okay?!” (Haine)

Now that it has come to this, there’s no choice but for me to defeat that guy.

Demon Lord, Raphael.

He is a clear threat to humans. If we don’t defeat him here, the harm he will create will spread far!

“Wait, Haine!” (Shiva)

Shiva must have felt my killing intent, he stopped me.

“I will defeat him. As the one responsible for creating him, I will!” (Shiva)

“But...!” (Haine)

Shiva created the wind element monsters as the Wind God Quasar, and it is true that as a result, the Demon Lord Raphael has been born.

That’s why, it is not as if I don’t understand how you feel. But even so, right now you have incarnated as a human, and are in complete tatters because of our fight today.

There’s no way you would have the remaining strength to oppose Raphael who is close to being comparable to a God!

“The tornadoes are...! Beginning to spread!” (Shiva)

Just as Shiva said, the four tornadoes that Raphael released have already destroyed the buildings of the Wind Church, and they are about to step into the urban area of Rudras Metropolis.

Those things that have been created from the divine power of the Demon Lord will surely destroy Rudras Metropolis without losing any strength as it moves.

Not only the buildings of the city, there are also many lives there.

“The only one who can stop those tornadoes is you who controls dark matter. I will take care of things here. That’s why, I leave my people...in your care!!” (Shiva)

“Shiva!” (Haine)

“Please!!” (Shiva)

...

I try to keep my expression from crumbling as I jump away.

First, from the closest tornado.

Even if it's a natural disaster that is comparable to that of the wrath of a God, in front of me, they are not a problem at all.

I will deal with this as soon as possible and return.

I leave things to you until I return, Guardian of the wind people!!

Chapter 167: Unyielding

Haine-san has jumped away.

I understand.

I -Kourin Karen-understand.

The reason why Haine-san has left this place is to protect Rudras Metropolis from the tornadoes.

The only one who I know that can do something about those natural disaster-level attacks is Haine-san.

But if Haine-san leaves this place...the ones left here would be...

“And you are not going to run away as well, humans?” (Raphael)

The child that is floating in the sky with his butterfly wings, the Demon Lord Raphael.

From every quiet word of his, there’s a pressure that would make you want to cry.

“No matter the case, it is pointless. All the humans here will be destroyed by this Wind Demon Lord Raphael today. Your cries of agony will become the first baby cries for the birth of the monster’s new era.” (Raphael)

“Don’t let it get to your head.”

The one who faced that demon lord face on was the hero –the wind hero.

“You are a shitty brat that hasn’t even experienced one day since being born. You are already getting your facts wrong. The reason why Haine has left here was because we are dividing the work. He will protect this city, and I will defeat you. Write it down.” (Shiva)

“You as well, your misunderstanding is laughable.” (Raphael)

From the childish face of Raphael, a scorning smile surfaces.

“A mere human is going to defeat me? Keep that conceitedness in check. This Demon Lord Raphael was given the very life essence of my mother in order to

become the leader that will lead all monsters. There's no way a mere human can stand against it." (Raphael)

That's right.

I can tell because I have fought many monsters as the light hero.

That small boy, his power as a monster is out of the bounds of understanding. He is the strongest monster from all the monsters I have fought until now.

Stronger than the Fire Cow Phalaris, Great Sea Serpent, and Grandma Wood.

The four tornadoes that Raphael released nonchalantly as if waving his hand, with just a single one of those, it possessed power that surpasses that of the high-heat flash of the Fire Cow and the tsunami of the Great Sea Serpent.

And more than that, he is simply floating in mid-air, and yet, the pressure it is releasing from his small body is overwhelming to the extreme.

Because of this, I can't move my body and can't stand.

It looks like Hyue-san is in the same state as me. Since the moment Raphael appeared, we haven't spoken a single word, not because we are speechless, but because we can't speak.

Even a hero like me felt as if I was a frog being glared by a snake.

"Light hero...you said your name is Karen, right?" (Shiva)

And the one who is a hero just like me, and the Wind Founder at the same time, Shiva-san.

"From how it looks, it seems you won't be able to move for a while. It is okay to take your time. Place strength in your legs, and when it is time to run away, please do so bringing Hyue together with you." (Shiva)

"!!!"

Even though he is a hero too, he chose escaping as if it was a given.

Haine-san is the same but, why is it that this person can move normally within this pressure?

"Aniue-samaaa! Aniue-samaaa!" (Hyue)

“Don’t let out such shameful voice, Hyue. You and all the people in Rudras Metropolis; I will protect them all.” (Shiva)

At the same time as he said this, he takes out his wind twin guns.

“Wind Twin Gun technique, [Crumble]!” (Shiva)

That is the wind attack that explodes at an area with zero time lag that he showed in the fight with Haine-san.

The time it takes to reach the target once the technique is released is zero, so, in theory, it should be impossible to deal with it.

However...

“Guawaaaa!!”

The one who was blown away was Shiva-san?!

“To think that you would confront the Wind Demon Lord with wind divine power; the very definition of a fool.” (Raphael)

Without even moving a single finger, the Demon Lord Raphael was overwhelming Shiva-san.

“Since the moment I appeared here, the air in the surroundings has been under my control. Trying to attack me with that air is laughable. Actually, let me tell you that the only reason why you are even breathing right now is because I am allowing it.” (Raphael)

It was at that moment.

...It hurts.

I opened my mouth to try to suck in air, and yet, air is not entering my mouth.

“Gahoo...”

“Gueee....!!”

It looks like Shiva-san and Hyue-san are in the same state.

Could it be that he is really controlling the air and has sealed our ability to breath?!

“Brittle, weak. To think we were allowing these weak living beings to act

freely as rulers. But the era will change. From now on, monsters will be the ones leading the world.” (Raphael)

“Don’t joke around!!” (Shiva)

Shiva-san shouts.

Unable to breathe, he had his body curled up, and yet, even with that, the fire in his eyes had not extinguished.

“With just a hundred years, you call yourselves the world’s standard-bearers? How absurd! Humans have devoted themselves in their studies for ten times longer than that! Don’t think you will win so easily!!” (Shiva)

Shiva-san coiled around wind in the surroundings?!

“Aaah!!” (Hyue)

“I can...breathe...?!” (Karen)

Shiva-san released wind divine power and stole the control rights of the air around.

“So you will entertain me a bit huh. In that case...” (Raphael)

For the first time, Raphael moved his body in order to attack us. Even so, he simply held his hand up towards Shiva-san, it was only that, and yet...!!

“Gaaaaaaah!!” (Shiva)

Shiva-san is being crushed by air!

“Like hell I will...lose to something of this degree!!” (Shiva)

Shiva-san breaks free from the compressed air.

Holding up both wind twin guns, he fought a battle for the rights of the air against the Demon Lord, while shooting bullet airs nonstop.

But all of them disappear into nothingness before they even reach the body of Raphael.

“How stupid humans are. Ending up all battered up, and knowing that you will not be able to defeat me, why is it that you still try to face me? Obediently accepting defeat, even if it will lead to death all the same, the amount of pain

would be less.” (Raphael)

“Sadly to say, I am already used to challenging fights I know I can’t win.”
(Shiva)

Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang!

Several tens of air bullets were shot from the muzzle of the twin guns.

Even if they are bullets made of air, shooting them so repeatedly like that in that amount would definitely affect the body in some way.

Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang Bang!

Cracks begin to appear in the gun barrel.

“...Humans are quite the unsightly living beings. Self-interested, stubborn, greedy...and they don’t listen to what others say. All of those things end up troubling many people!” (Shiva)

Shiva-san?!

“That’s why, even if I end up being obedient in the end, it wouldn’t be cool at all. Lord of monsters, let me tell you this. Don’t look down on humaaaaaans!!!”
(Shiva)

“Wa?! This is?!” (Raphael)

From the body of Shiva-san, wind divine power that can’t be compared to anytime before was gushing out from him.

It is several tens of times more than the time when he was fighting Haine-san. To think he had such an amount of divine power in him.

But if he were to release this much divine power at once, the recoil it would create would also be—!!

“Impossible! A mere human possessing this amount of divine power!”
(Raphael)

“Didn’t I tell you not to look down on humans?! Even when helplessly cornered, they will not choose the intelligent option. That is the stubbornness of humans!!” (Shiva)

This is not good. If he continues releasing that much divine power, Shiva’s

body won't hold on.

The twin guns have already crumbled to pieces, and in time, Shiva's body will face the same fate...

Even so, with this, it feels like Shiva-san's offensive that sacrifices his very body will finally open a path in this fight against Raphael.

Raphael still has leeway. At this rate, the curtains will fall with Shiva-san's self-destruction.

Shiva-san won't be able to defeat that Demon Lord on his own.

On his own, that is!!

Chapter 168: Shining Wind

My feet won't move. Even though I am not injured.

I know. The reason why my feet won't move is because of fear.

“Get a grip on yourself! You are a hero right?! Move, me!!” (Karen)

As I sweat cold sweat from all the pores in my body, I somehow manage to stand up.

The place I am headed to is only one.

“Hyue-san! Hyue-san! Are you okay?!” (Karen)

Toreido Hyue-san.

The sister of the Wind Founder Shiva-san, and she herself is an excelling user of wind divine power.

The reason why Shiva-san opened up his heart in the end was because she was there with us.

And right now, that girl has been hit by the pressure of the Demon Lord Raphael, and is unable to move her body freely.

“——!!”

I glance at the other side.

I don't know if to call it fortunate, but thanks to Shiva-san's desperate effort, Demon Lord Raphael's attention is concentrated on him, and he is not paying attention to us at all.

It can also be said that he didn't consider us worthy of attention from the very beginning though.

Anyways, I have to utilize this situation to its best!

“Sorry, Hyue-san. Can you move? Can you stand up?” (Karen)

“I-I can't! It feels as if my body is not my own! At this rate, running away is impossible!” (Hyue)

It was as expected but, Hyue-san's heart has completely broken.

This is not good.

"Hyue-san, listen here. We are not running away. On the contrary, we are going to fight." (Karen)

"Eh?"

"We are going to defeat that butterfly child. But that's something that by no means I would be able to do on my own. That's why, Hyue-san, I want you to lend me your power." (Karen)

The moment she was told this, Hyue-san's complexion became whiter than paper.

Unless you are someone that's being exposed to the pressure of the Demon Lord, you wouldn't be able to understand her feelings right now.

Even so, I still say it.

"Please Hyue-san, lend me your strength. Let's defeat Raphael together." (Karen)

"Impossible! There's no way we can do that!! There's no way we can defeat such a monster!" (Hyue)

Hyue-san says this as if crying it out.

In truth, I would like to concur with that opinion myself.

"Not even Aniue-sama is able to lift a finger against him, and yet, what can I - who's not even a hero-do?! I am not strong! What can I do that Aniue-sama can't?!" (Hyue)

"I am also not strong. There's a lot of other people stronger than me." (Karen)

Haine-san, Yorishiro-sama, Doraha-san; just by thinking about it for a bit, I was able to bring out these many names. As the light hero, this is pretty pathetic. But none of these people are here right now.

"The ones here right now are only you and me. That's why there's no choice but for us to do something about it." (Karen)

"But, But—!!" (Hyue)

“I understand that it is scary. But if we don’t do anything here and now, the efforts of your brother will end up being pointless!!” (Karen)

At those words, I felt like the eyes of Hyue-san that were dyed completely in fear until now had begun showing something different for a moment there.

“Shiva-san is –your brother is fighting Raphael with enough drive to exhaust his very life. But that’s probably the most he can do. The body of Shiva-san will not be able to endure the divine power he himself is releasing, and will collapse!!” (Karen)

Shiva-san himself knows that this is what’s going to happen and still decided to do it.

What that person is aiming for is the very definition buying time.

If the fight continues like this, Haine-san who has gone to erase the four tornadoes will return. And then, he is waiting for Haine-san to defeat Raphael.

But by that time, Shiva-san would have already destroyed himself.

That person is exchanging his very life for time.

“In order to avoid that, we have to move now!” (Karen)

“!!!”

Different emotions were welling up from the eyes of Hyue-san, and it was driving off the color of fear.

“What...should I do?” (Hyue)

“!!”

“Even if you say all that, I can’t find a single way to stop that monster in my techniques. What should I do to save Aniue-sama?” (Hyue)

Accurately speaking, it is not the power of just Hyue-san and I. And in reality, Shiva-san is the one that is keeping Raphael in place right now.

We have to defeat Raphael by utilizing that situation to the fullest.

But how?

Raphael nullified all the shots of the wind twin guns of Shiva-san, and there’s

not a single wound on him.

There's a wind barrier around that child's surroundings, and it automatically protects him.

Even if Hyue-san were to use the gun that has a long gun barrel, it would most likely be the same result. I think it would be hard to defeat him in one hit with my 'Light Divine Blade' and 'Light Divine Line'.

And if we don't defeat him in one hit, it will definitely turn into something bad.

That Raphael definitely has the power to wipe both of us out in the spare time he is fighting with Shiva-san after all.

"That's why...can you do this?" (Karen)

Hyue-san and I will combine our powers.

I will condense my light divine power to its very limits. I will create a super-compressed light divine power that is stronger than the 'Holy Light Line' that works with the same principle.

"You are telling me to use that as a bullet, and shoot it?!" (Hyue)

"Can you do it?" (Karen)

"I...think I can. This divine tool -the wind head gun, Enoozuno-is a gun that can shoot the formless divine power. If it's just changing wind divine power for light divine power, there's probably no problem." (Hyue)

Okay.

I fought Hyue-san not that long ago. And at that fight, she showed incredible accuracy in her sniping, and even now, it still makes me shiver.

The light divine power is slightly advantageous to all elements.

If it's a super-compressed bullet of that, it should be able to penetrate the air barrier that is protecting Raphael. And with the accuracy of Hyue-san, we will shoot the head of Raphael.

With this, I can see hope in defeating him.

"But...If it were to miss..." (Hyue)

“What are you saying? When you fought us, you practically didn’t miss at all, right?” (Karen)

Honestly speaking, if Mirack-chan who had an advantage in elements wasn’t there, we would have lost for sure.

“I believe in Hyue-san’s sniping skill. I believe that you will hit for sure. If we don’t believe, we won’t get anywhere. Hesitating to believe is pointless.”
(Karen)

It might be strange to believe in someone I just met today. However, I will follow my instinct that has been honed in the many hardships I have faced.

It is telling me that I can believe in this person.

“...By throwing away the thought of whether to believe, the true way to believe is born. That’s what you said too right, Aniue-sama?” (Hyue)

“Eh?”

“Please lend me a shoulder.” (Hyue)

“Ah, like this?” (Karen)

Hyue-san places the gun barrel at my shoulder and fixes it in place.

It must be a technique to avoid the shaking in the moment of the shot and have the aim slip.

“...It is the same as a sniper. If I don’t throw away the wish of hitting the target, I won’t be able to hit the target that is the Demon Lord. Resolve myself, and leave it all to my body. Just as I have been training everyday. Clean the mind. Forget your very breathing...and as if a snowflake is falling, pull the trigger.” (Hyue)

I couldn’t tell when it happened.

It must have been because it was a way too natural of a movement. It should have been something incredible, and yet, even I felt as if the sound of the wind that rang was a natural one.

By the time I noticed...the head of the Demon Lord Raphael had bursted to pieces.

Chapter 169: At the place the wind leads

The sound of a *Bang!!* resounded in the place.

What was shot as a bullet was the light divine power I imbued for Hyue-san.

The light divine power that holds a slight advantage on all elements pierced through the wind barrier of Raphael as we wanted, and slipped into the vital area that is the cranium, and blew up the head itself.

Aside from the remaining parts of his head, he is still floating as he has been until now, but the overwhelming pressure, and the wind barrier has disappeared, and the compressed air that was attacking Shiva-san has disappeared as well.

“...We did it? Did we do it?!” (Karen)

It took us a while for Hyue-san and I to understand this.

In time, the sense of accomplishment, or more like, the feeling of victory had permeated in our whole body.

“We did it! We defeated him!”

“We did it! We did it! We did it!” <And now, I take out this flag, and plant it, plant it, PLANT IT!>

Hyue-san and I hugged each other as we celebrated, but Hyue-san soon remembered that there’s something she should be more worried about.

“Aniue-sama! Are you okay?!” (Hyue)

Hyue-san runs to her brother Shiva-san.

Shiva-san, who had no need of releasing a great deal of divine power anymore, had now lost strength and was simply staring blankly into space.

“You...!!” (Shiva)

“Aniue-sama!” (Hyue)

As Hyue-san ran towards him, Shiva-san falls without any strength to that direction. Hyue-san hurriedly supported her brother, and I also hurriedly run

there to help out.

...Shiva-san's whole body had dried out here and there, and it felt as if it might crumble at any moment.

To think releasing more divine power than the body can handle would lead to this much damage to the body!

In reality, to be able to release this much divine power without the assistance of an amplifier like a divine tool should be impossible in theory.

Even in my memories, the only ones who can utilize enough divine power to be useable in battle without the need of an amplifier are Haine-san, Yorishiro-sama, and Doraha-san.

Shiva-san is without doubt someone who has stepped into that realm.

And that reality made the fearsomeness of Raphael, who pushed Shiva-san this far, even deeper.

"...To think I would be saved by you girls. Looks like I am long overdue."
(Shiva)

"Aniue-sama... It was thanks to this person. Thanks to this person supporting me, I was able to stabilize my heart and shoot." (Hyue)

Hyue-san faces my way.

Hm?

"Humans supporting each other huh..." (Shiva)

No, I didn't really do much. It was more like, the high accuracy of Hyue-san made it all possible.

"Hyue had already reached the perfection of her technique, but her heart was still brittle. In the important times, she would always think of unnecessary things, have her heart waver, have her fingers tremble, and would miss her target. However, at this time, it looks like you have managed to conquer that."
(Shiva)

"Aniue-sama..." (Hyue)

"Humans are always growing even in places I don't know of. They are writing

their own story. That's why humans are interesting." (Shiva)

Shiva-san, who is snuggled up to Hyue-san, was showing a gentleness that was completely different from previous instances, and it felt as the perfect picture of a Founder.

But this is probably the real Wind Founder, Toreido Shiva.

"That's as far as the farce goes, humans."

?!!!

Eh?!

I turn my back to the chill, and in that place, there was Raphael who still had no head floating in the air.

He is dead...right?

He doesn't have a head anymore. If it were a human, that would totally be fatal. If it were human...

But that guy is not a human, he is a monster.

"...That was a learning experience. Even if humans are insects unworthy of attention, if they are ignored, you won't know what they will pull. No matter what trash it is, I have to use this mighty power to eliminate them all. In order to build up the new era for us monsters." (Raphael)

"Are you immortal, you bastard?!" (Shiva)

Looks like Shiva-san was shivering at the sight of Raphael that had his head blown up and was still alive.

As we were thinking about how baffling this was, at the neck of Raphael, a black mist looked like it was released, and when that mist gathered, something was taking form?!

When it finished, the head of Raphael that was blown up had returned as if it never happened.

It regenerated perfectly?!

"You bastard...! That power is...!" (Shiva)

“It is just as you guessed. It is one of the abilities I inherited from my mother. I am able to transform every single one of the cells that compose my body into insects. Even if all this body were to be blown up, I can transform the scattered cells into flies or whatever, and gather them to regenerate.” (Raphael)

“In other words, in order to truly kill you, we would have to destroy every single cell of yours?! You damn monster!!” (Shiva)

No way!

That is the same power as the Mother Monster, Beelzebub –no, it is a power that surpasses it!

“The snipe just now made several of my cells unusable though. However, that is your limit. You weak humans can injure me, but can’t kill me. That is a difference that shows the absolute boundary you and me.” (Raphael)

Raphael lifts a hand up.

Right now, we are gathered up supporting Shiva-san, so he can crush us all at the same time.

Thinking about the difference in power between us, that surprise attack just now was our one and only chance.

There’s already no way for us to defeat the Raphael that won’t lower his guard anymore.

For us, that is.

“But you don’t understand one important thing.” (Karen)

“What?” (Raphael)

I speak.

“You don’t understand who is the one you should really be fearing. You are in a critical moment where you are hanging between living or dying. Without understanding that, you leisurely took your time in regenerating, looked down on us as much as you wanted, and provided us with important time. Your destiny was decided with that.” (Karen)

“Hmph, I don’t understand what you are trying to say.” (Raphael)

I could feel that power was gathering in the hand of Raphael.

He is most likely going to crush us with a space of compressed air.

But...

“The reason you don’t understand is because you were born not that long ago and don’t know anything.”

“?!”

“That’s why, I will teach it to you. The fear of being crushed by absolute power. I will teach you that the people that pride on their power are all just weaklings that lose to the stronger ones and disappear.”

“Wa?!”

“[Dark Matter, Set]”

Chapter 170: Conflicting sides

“[Dark Matter, Set]!!”

I shout out a counteroffensive in my return.

A massive amount of dark matter hits that damn butterfly brat.

“Guwaaaaa!!”

Being showered by dark matter, even he had his face distort in pain.

“You...aren’t you the human that ran away?! Why did you return now?!”

(Raphael)

Is what the evil butterfly brat says as he glared at me -Kuromiya Haine.

“So you thought that huh. I literally ran everywhere to deal with the prank you pulled and finally came back, you know!!” (Haine)

“What?!” (Raphael)

Raphael looks at the sides while his body was covered in dark matter. He is looking for something.

“Impossible! The four Disaster Swirls are gone?! Not a single one remains?!” (Raphael)

He is probably referring to the four tornadoes he released.

Every single one of them was calamity class. Every one of them had the power to turn into a wasteland the places it passes through, and it was about to destroy Rudras Metropolis, so I chased towards one after the other. Do you know how much of a pain it was to erase them with dark matter?

“Are you saying you were the one who erased them? There’s no way a mere human can do something like that! The four Disaster Swirls that I placed all my might into!” (Raphael)

“Hoh~, so that was all your might? Then, you should be satisfied now after doing all you could, right? Disappear already then!!” (Haine)

Demon Lord Raphael.

Your mistake was to underestimate humans to the very end.

You must have thought ‘I can kill them anytime I want’. You must have thought that you could take your time and enjoy killing them.

This folly has killed you.

You should have escaped from here immediately.

But because you got self-conceited, you failed to see the whole picture, met with unexpected difficulties in the desperate resistance of Karen-san, Hyue-san, and Shiva, and have ended up utilizing all the time you had remaining.

The important time till your Death God returned, that is!

“What?! What is this power?! I am being erased? My invincible divine power is being erased?!” (Raphael)

“You really thought of yourself as invincible when you are only at this level. The very definition of a brat!” (Haine)

The dark matter is covering Raphael more and more.

The resistance the wind divine power is giving is still furious, but I will have you be crushed just like this in a clash of powers!

“Don’t let your guard down, Haine!” (Shiva)

Shiva’s warning flies at me!

“That guy has inherited the ability of Beelzebub! He can change his body into small insects, and disperse in order to evade! If you let even one of them escape, it won’t really be the end of him!!” (Shiva)

“?!?”

He had such an ability?!

I see. Then I will have to cover him with even more dark matter, making sure to not leave a single gap.

While I was thinking that, I felt a divine power from a source that was not mine enveloping the surroundings.

“...Shiva?!?” (Haine)

To my surprise, Shiva had wrapped the area where Raphael is covered by dark matter with a layer of wind divine power.

As if to not let a single drop of water leak; a double encirclement.

But now that I take a closer look at the body of Shiva, I could tell that his body was even more battered than before, and I could tell that his limit has long been crossed.

If you release more divine power with that body—!

“This is my way of settling things! We four Base Elements were the ones who irresponsibly created monsters. If I were to let you alone get rid of the result of our idiocy, it would affect my pride as a God!” (Shiva)

“You—!” (Haine)

“Don’t let down your guard down no matter what! Thinking about the traits of his mother, Beelzebub, if we let even one piece of his meat remain, it won’t be his end. He is also desperate right now. No matter what small of a gap it is, he will try to create a double through it and run, so we have to seal it perfectly!!” (Shiva)

“...Understood.” (Haine)

The trait of the dark matter is to erase without leaving a single trace behind.

By manifesting this trait to its very best, I will abide by request, and will proceed to literally erase Raphael from existence.

“What’s with this black substance? Even I as a Demon Lord don’t know of this. Are you telling me something like this actually exists?!” (Raphael)

Raphael still had practically all of his body covered in dark matter, and the only things that can be seen from the outside are his face and his struggling arms and legs, and the ends of his butterfly wings.

He is trying to escape from the exposed areas, but he was blocked by the wind that Shiva has created at the outside of it, and it was impossible for him to escape. On the contrary, them becoming small flies, made it easier for the dark matter to sink and erase them.

“...Stop it! Stop it! Do you understand just how sinful of an action you are

perpetrating here?!” (Raphael)

“?”

Raphael shouts while struggling.

“I am the Lord of all demons! The Demon Lord! As the leader that will be leading the monsters to a new era, I am absolutely necessary! Do you understand how much of a loss it is for me to be erased?!” (Raphael)

“This bastard!!” (Haine)

“Why can’t you understand that the era of humans is over?! The old ones should disappear obediently! You are the ones who should disappear, not us! From today on, we will be walking the path of glory!!” (Raphael)

“Don’t go saying things that only fit your convenience!” (Haine)

The attack of the dark matter had covered the face and both arms of Raphael and is now completely covering him.

The encirclement of compressed air from Shiva didn’t let a single small fly escape and pushed them back to where the clump of dark matter is.

The Demon Lord Raphael already had no path but death.

The sensations that were being sent by the dark matter to me were notifying me that what’s inside of it is being slowly crushed.

The inside was steadily becoming smaller, lost human shape, became a small spec, but even so, they were still mercilessly erasing it.

“If we can’t coexist, we have no choice but to fight until one side disappears. There’s also cases when it ends up being your side that losses and disappears.” (Haine)

The Demon Lord Raphael has been erased. Without leaving a single piece of flesh remaining.

And so, the dark matter that has finished its duty, followed my will and disappears to nothingness.

Everything disappears, and we stand on top of the floor that has lost everything in its surroundings.

Shiva and I face each other.

Karen-san and Hyue were watching from afar though.

I don't know who was the one who moved first, but in order to inform that everything is now over, Shiva and I lift our right hands, and just like that, we slapped them high in the air.

Chapter 171: God Conference

“The Wind Founder, Toreido Shiva, was under the control of a monster.”

What is this person suddenly saying?

“The Wind Mother Monster, Beelzebub, entered the body of a human, and was able to freely control it. Many people have witnessed this ability it has. The Wind Founder Shiva was controlled at an early period and had the Beelzebub army act as the Wind Barrier of Rudras Metropolis to parasitize it. And then, matching this time’s five Founder Conference, they utilized you as a pawn in order to destroy humanity.”

“No, uhm...” (Haine)

“The Wind Founder Shiva -being controlled by the monster-utilized the Wind capital and had them attack without giving them an explanation, and then, Beelzebub would parasitize on all the five churches...however, at that moment, a ray of hope appeared.”

“Yorishiro-san?” (Haine)

“Kuromiya Haine-san, utilizing that rare power of his, he wiped out Beelzebub and managed to eliminate the special fly that was inside the body of the Founder Shiva. Thanks to this, Shiva managed to regain his self and cooperated in the subjugation of Beelzebub. Like this, we were able to splendidly overcome this crisis.” (Yorishiro)

.....

“So, how is it?” (Yorishiro)

Even if you ask me how it is...

One night has passed since the series of battles with that repulsive Beelzebub and the Demon Lord Raphael, and we were still staying in the Wind capital.

And to put more detail in it, we are currently in the room of the Founder Shiva.

Due to yesterday’s fight, his whole body was wounded, and so, he is now lying

down on his bed to recover.

His body had surpassed the limits of how much divine power it could release, it even came to a point that he was on the verge of dying, but thanks to the help of Yorishiro and I, we somehow managed to keep him among the living.

The ones here right now are only Yorishiro, Shiva, and I. In a sense, it can be called a conference of Gods.

“Shiva-san, from now on, we will have to line up the steps of the five churches and establish a cooperative structure.” (Yorishiro)

This is what Yorishiro, the incarnation of the Light Goddess Inflation, said.

“And yet, there was one church that didn’t heed this and one-sidedly attacked us. With this, the whole world won’t be able to make their next step. Even if you were to apologize and accept the blame, grudge would still remain. And above all, even if you were to be asked why you acted in that way, you wouldn’t be able to tell them the truth, right?” (Yorishiro)

That’s true.

There’s way too many obstacles in him saying that everything was a preparation done by the Wind God Quasar that took 1,600 years; all in order to have a rematch.

“It is fine to just throw all the blame to the monsters. By doing this, we widen the harmony between humans, and in a way, we would be giving those pseudo-lifeforms a reason for their existence.” (Yorishiro)

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

It became hard for Shiva and I to completely agree with what Yorishiro said.

We remembered that way too abnormal existence that had suddenly appeared.

“Wind Demon Lord, Raphael huh...” (Haine)

Calling himself the Lord of monsters, he wanted to exterminate humans and change the ruling of the world to monsters.

“Shiva, what do you think about it?” (Haine)

“Why do you ask me?” (Shiva)

“You four Base Elements were the ones who created monsters, right? Don’t you have your personal opinion regarding monsters?” (Haine)

Maybe I poked a place that hurt, the Wind Founder and Wind God Shiva went silent for a while as if gathering his thoughts first before opening his mouth.

“Honestly speaking, I didn’t even imagine this would happen.” (Shiva)

“The part about monsters gaining a will, deciding on an objective on their own, and acting on it?” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro who didn’t see Raphael for herself seemed to still be half in doubt about it.

“Monsters are simply villains that the Gods created in order to maintain the religious faith of humans towards us Gods. No more, no less than that. That’s why, them having a will and deviating from the frameworks the Gods made shouldn’t be possible for pseudo-lifeforms that hold no soul. And yet, that was...!” (Shiva)

“Things don’t always work as planned. More so with a long span of time like a hundred years.” (Haine)

The monsters were created by the four Base Elements a hundred years ago.

Just how many monsters were born in that time, and how many have been defeated by the heroes? How many thousands, how many millions?

And in that time, the Mother Monsters that are the source of those monsters have been living as a single lifeform all the way till now.

They could at least gain a will on their own in all that time.

“Now that I think about it, it is something quite natural. I forgot in which legend it was, but it stated that simple tools can have a soul reside in them after being continuously used for hundreds years. In that case, even if pseudo, the monsters who are still living beings would fit even more in that category.” (Haine)

“Good grief. You Base Elements always have shallow thinking.” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro says with a tiresome expression.

“Give me a break!! Tell that to Nova or Coacervate! They are the guys that always act with shallow thinking~~~!!But...” (Shiva)

His agitation must have made his wound hurt, Shiva’s expression distorted, and he sinks his body deep into his bed.

“I am also to blame for giving tacit consent to their crime huh... Will this end it?” (Shiva)

“Hm?”

“That existence called a Demon Lord, will it end with just Raphael? We somehow managed to defeat that guy, but I don’t think this will be the end of it at all.” (Shiva)

Right.

The Wind Demon Lord, Raphael; the child of Beelzebub. The Wind Mother Monster obtained a will in the long time it lived, and with that will, it began to question the meaning of its existence, and he was the answer it arrived at.

“If there’s also another Mother Monster that has arrived at the same stage as Beelzebub...” (Shiva)

“The Earth Monster Monster, Grandma Wood, has already been erased, but there’s still the Fire and Water Mother Monster. The world might be heading to a more severe situation than we expected.” (Yorishiro)

The monsters that we thought were just a bother for the world have begun to evolve into having clear animosity towards humans.

Our objective was already to eradicate the monsters, but with this new possibility, we have to put even more effort when tackling this.

“Then, Shiva-san, I will ask you this as the Light Founder. About the subjugation of Mother Monsters -and possibly Demon Lords-, will your Wind Church...” (Yorishiro)

“We will of course cooperate.” (Shiva)

While still in bed, Shiva says this with confidence.

“More so if we are going to be using the excuse of me being controlled by the Mother Monster. I gotta make things right. We have defeated the Wind Mother Monster and the Demon Lord, but there’s many things that still need to be done.” (Shiva)

Shiva gets up from his bed. For a wounded person, he really doesn’t stay in place.

“Just like how monsters have changed, the human world is trying to change as well. It is also time for us Wind Church to cease the secrecy.” (Shiva)

“Ara, does that mean you will be publicizing the many things that the Wind Church has concealed here and there? About things like the moving city and the wind twin guns. The ethereal technology of the Wind is one to two generations ahead from the other churches after all. It would help us a lot that you will be sharing your knowledge.” (Yorishiro)

“I am not against it, but I will be having you pay the fitting price for it. The one who knows the worth of technology the most, is us Wind Church.” (Shiva)

“Ufufufufufu~~.” (Yorishiro)

“Hwahahahaha~~” (Shiva)

They are having a politic-like talk now.

When it comes to this kind of topics, I naturally end up estranged.

As expected, it really does make me jealous. I also wanted to get involved in the evolution of humanity and do things like making a human settlement.

“...Shiva, what will you be doing?” (Yorishiro)

“Me?” (Shiva)

Understanding the meaning of the question, Shiva’s expression gets darker.

Due to the fight with the Demon Lord Raphael, Shiva’s body has broken to an irreparable point.

Especially when he even utilized the God divine power in order to pin Raphael. There’s no way for the human body of Shiva to withstand it.

“This body is already useless. I did that with the intentions of trading my life there anyways, so it could be said that I profited big.” (Shiva)

“Why did you end up all worn-out just by going all out? You could have done many things like aligning the body with the divine power or something like that.” (Yorishiro)

“Shut up! Even if we are all incarnations here, the amount of things the four Base Elements can do is different compared to you two Poles!! Showing off the difference even in a place like this pisses me off!!” (Shiva)

The complex of Shiva that had been calming down had once again exploded.

But for Shiva who is the Wind Founder and hero, this would be a big problem since this would mean the Wind Church will face a heavy decrease in military power.

Standing against monsters is the duty of heroes. If he is unable to perform that duty...

“...I actually have a plan for that.” (Shiva)

Chapter 172: New Style

Several days passed since then, a ceremony took place in the Wind capital.

The ceremony to appoint a new hero.

“The new wind hero, Toreido Hyue.”

“Yes.” (Hyue)

Being called by name, Hyue stands up.

She walks towards Toreido Shiva who pushed himself to be here even when he is not in the best of conditions.

“From today on, you will become the wind hero that will protect the Wind Church and Wind capital of Rudras Metropolis.” (Shiva)

“I humbly accept this duty.” (Hyue)

Shiva takes the long gun, that Hyue utilized in the battle, and gives it to her.

“We have added the high-purity amplifier mineral that we managed to recover from the pieces of the broken wind twin guns, Fuuma Koutarou, and have removed the limiters it had. It has become several times harder to utilize, but the current you should be able to master it.” (Shiva)

The long gun passed from the brother to the little sister’s hands.

That wasn’t the only thing that was passed to her.

The talk about selecting his little sister Hyue as the new wind hero was something that was first mentioned in the God Conference where Yorishiro and I were.

Shiva, who was completely battered by the fight against the Demon Lord Raphael, has now ended up with a body that is difficult for him to participate in any fights personally.

On top of that, the cooperation between the five churches will be growing active from now on, so he must have judged that it would be hard to be act as a Founder and hero.

Conferring the title of hero to Hyue who earned great achievements in this battle, Shiva will concentrate on his duty as a Founder.

This announcement stirred up all the people living in Rudras Metropolis, and after a bit of unrest, they accepted it.

That can also be said to be proof of how firmly the people trust the Founder Shiva.

In this ceremony, there were many people participating here who were hidden at the time of the five Founder Conference and didn't show their figure. And within that group of people, we members of other churches were given guest seats.

The Wind Church that has been concealed in their secrecy; the wind was trying to change its direction little by little.

"I am looking forward to working with you from now on."

By the time the ceremony ended and we had moved to the banquet to celebrate Hyue's appointment to hero, the hero herself came to us to give us her greetings.

In this party filled with people related to the Wind Church, there's a group of outsiders: Karen-san, Mirack, Celestis, and Sasae-chan; 4 heroes together. No, with the addition of Hyue, it would be 5 huh.

All 5 heroes of their respective elements have now gathered.

I was watching over that from a step back.

"Today, I have succeeded the title of hero. As fellow heroes, I would like guidance." (Hyue)

"It is fine not to be so formal, Hyue-chan! From now on, we are fellow heroes and friends!" (Karen)

As expected, the one who cut off the stiff mood and tried to have Hyue-chan mix in was Karen-san.

And the remaining three follow-up.

“Here as well, I will be looking forward to working with you. But how to say this, with this, the five heroes are finally all gathered huh. Thinking about the time when it was just Karen and I...it is truly vexing!” (Mirack)

“In those days, I didn’t think Mirack-chan would become this much of a woman-lover though.” (Karen)

“Ya bein’ a hero from today on must mean that ya are my junior, ain’t it?! If ya don’t understand something, don’t hesitate to ask me-dasu yo!!” (Sasae)

“And Sasae-chan, don’t get conceited.” (Karen)

The retorting skill of Karen-san has increased?!

“No really, I seriously did wonder how things would turn out, you know. Being told that the wind hero was a man, my plans had been derailed, you know~. But in the end, the black hair ninja-type girl has joined, and I am going all banzai banzai here!” (Celestis)

“...Celestis-chan?” (Karen)

“So, I want everyone to check something out~~.” (Celestis)

Saying so, Celestis began to distribute something to the other heroes.

A thin stack of papers... are those pamphlets?

“...What is this?” (Mirack)

“The documents for the plan of our live concert debuting the five heroes! Thinking about the affiliations of each of us, it will be impossible to have a live in only one city, so naturally, it will become a live tour! It will be a hard schedule, but you will be able to keep up with it, right?! I have already thought of a choreography that will make a big number like five people all flourish on the stage, so make sure to give the documents a read! Also, there’s the need to make the costumes, so I am looking forward to your submits regarding your three sizes! Don’t go submitting false numbers just because it is embarrassing, okay? No one’s looking forward to accidental exposure due to costumes that don’t fit! Also—!” (Karen)

“””” ”””””

“Ouch! Why are you throwing back the project papers?! Ouch, don’t hit me

with those! Or more like, who is the one throwing them while adding rotation to it?! It hit my forehead and makes it hurt unnecessarily more!” (Celestis)

...

I did know about it already, but it really does remind me that this is a gathering of characteristic individuals.

Leading these group as a team might actually be a pain in the neck.

Well, the only saving I can think of is that Hyue seems to be relatively normal in terms of common sense...

“Uhm...and so...” (Hyue)

For some reason, Hyue began to fidget.

“It has been decided that us Wind Church will be helping out in the subjugation of the Mother Monsters, and the Wind Church will be cooperating with the other churches. The secrecy policy we have had until now will be adjusted, and by deepening our relations, we believe that it will bring forth further development.” (Hyue)

“Hm, it does seem so.” (Celestis)

“I think it is quite the splendid thing! The world will get closer to peace!” (Karen)

The secretive stance of the Wind Church was a part of the self-defense measures they took in the era where the churches were fighting each other.

If they are planning on developing their relations with the churches, it is true that there’s already no need for that policy.

“And in light of that! I am sorry for bringing it out so suddenly, but since this is a banquet, I would like you to have a taste of the cuisine of us Rudras Metropolis, and so, I tried preparing several of our specialties. My homemade cooking!” (Hyue)

“Homemade?! That’s incredible!” (Karen)

“Delicious food-dasu ka?! I be salivatin’ already-dasu!!” (Sasae)

“And now it has been revealed that she has domestic skills, a domestic

character has joined us?! That's nice! Our strike zone will widen!" (Celestis)

"The back figure of a girl cooking is nice." (Mirack)

The reactions of the heroes are all favorable.

Hyue's expression was shining like that of someone who had friends come to their house for the first time.

"I see...! I see! Then, let's go right to it and have you taste it!" (Hyue)

Saying so, all sorts of food were being carried over to the table.

Preserved Grasshopper boiled in soy sauce.

The larva of a Burst King Beetle fried in bean curd.

Butterfly saute.

Marine worm pickled in royal jelly.

Also marine worm but this time cooked in rice.

Salted nettle caterpillar.

Bread.

""""?!!!!!!!!!"

Insect cuisine.

With the high tension Hyue showed at first, she begins explaining.

"In our Wind Church, we thrive in the medicinal food. Satisfying our hunger, we have also researched ways to increase the strength of our body with it! The result of much trial and error, the practice of eating insects which are high in nutrients was adopted. What I have made today are all dishes that are categorized as the best!!" (Hyue)

Karen-san and the heroes had a completely paled face and were sweating bullets at the explanation.

"W-What are we going to do about this?! I underestimated the cultural exchange. The hurdle of values is higher than I ever imagined!" (Celestis)

"But we were the ones who brought out the talk about cooperation, so we can't refuse here! If at least one of us were to eat it...!" (Karen)

.....

Good grief.

Having this right after that fight with Beelzebub would make things even harder.

I stop spectating from afar and, first, take one grasshopper that was soaked in broth and throw it in my mouth.

“Haine-san?!” (Karen)

“.....”

I chew chew, and swallow.

...Hm? Eh?

“This is good! I thought it was only salty, but the sweetness also mixed in, and it had a more complex taste than I thought! The grasshopper itself was crunchy and gave it a nice feel when chewed!” (Haine)

“The soup that was used to boil this grasshopper, that in itself has more than 20 types of ingredients used exclusively for this dish; the best sauce of all. With just that, it is an extravagant dish, but by mixing the grasshopper with this soup, it brings out even more depth to it! It is the result of the hundreds of years of research of the Wind Church!” (Hyue)

In the times I went to a mountain to do hunting and had run out of food, I had no choice but to catch and eat things like spiders and lizards, so I thought I would serve as sacrifice and eat it for them but, what is with this tastiness?!

“Delish delish delish delish delish delish~~! Delish-dasu!” (Sasae)

“Even Sasae-chan?!” (Karen)

As expected of the country bumpkin Sasae-chan. She is stuffing her cheeks on a plate that has a mountain of King Beetle larvae.

“Obaa-chan be good at making insect dishes, but this be more delish by a lot-dasu!” (Sasae)

“I see, I see! Burst King Beetle is famous for being really good for your immune system, and by eating it, it is said that it will help you have high

resistance against diseases! They are hard to raise, but today I wanted everyone to eat good, so I brought the freshest ones! The ones that are trained in the wild have a whole different level of taste after all!” (Hyue)

“When I chew on ‘em, they be making a squishy *puchu* sound and it be delish-dasu! As expected, meat all be soft when they young-dasu na!!” (Sasae)

Sasae-chan was giving rave reviews.

But in contrast to that, the expression of Karen-san and the others get more and more stiff.

“W-What should we do?! Listening to that explanation, I can tell that it took quite a lot of time and money to make!!” (Karen)

“There’s a crazy amount of heart placed in thi~s. Looking at that beautiful smile, I can’t bring myself to say that I can’t eat i~t!” (Celestis)

Karen-san and Celestis were cornered.

While watching this, I bite on the bread that is in the menu.

“...Or more like, is this bread the only thing that is normal?” (Haine)

“That bread has dried crushed maggots mixed in with the wheat flour when made. It is apparently incredibly high in proteins, but since maggots are maggots, there’s the danger of food poisoning, so only maggots that were bred in special clean and supervised environments are utilized. It takes time and effort to make this bread.” (Hyue)

Moreover, it is freshly baked! The heat of the stove still remains in the bread and it is delicious.

“By the way, Mirack can also eat them normally huh.” (Haine)

“Who do you think I am? I am the fire hero, you know? Do you know how many female juniors admired me, made homemade cooking for me with their lacking cooking skills, and had to digest them all with this stomach of mine? Compared to that, this food just looks grotesque, but it is crazy delicious.” (Mirack)

“I see~. Ah, I thought of something nice. Don’t you think it would taste great to smear this bread with that bee honey there?” (Haine)

“I thought so as well. Okay, let’s put it to practice at once.” (Mirack)

A fun meal time.

On the other hand, Karen-san and Celestis were trembling all this time.

“For the sake of an amicable relationship between churches, for the sake of an amicable relationship between churches, for the sake of an amicable relationship between churches, for the sake of an amicable relationship between churches~~!!” (Karen)

“If I just think of them as relatives of shrimps and lobsters, if I just think of them as relatives of shrimps and lobsters, if I just think of them as relatives of shrimps and lobsters, if I just think of them as relatives of shrimps and lobsters~~!!” (Celestis)

It looks like they are muttering things while holding their forks and knives, and were frozen in place.

Well, because three of the five are enjoying it, Hyue was incredibly happy, and the banquet proceeded harmoniously.

Chapter 173: Synchronicity

At the deep deep depths of the sea, a semi-transparent pillar was standing.

It is the Water Mother Monster, Strobi Laguna.

Created by the Water God Coacervate, it is a giant gelatin-property mass that possesses the function of infinitely giving birth to water element monsters.

The main body that is as if it were a giant pillar had several thousands of semi-transparent plates piled up. The plate that is at the very top was isolated from the rest, and by leaving itself to the sea current, it flows here and there, and in the time it is doing that, it steadily changes shape into a marine creature and becomes a water element monster.

The length of this Mother Monster is -as common of a Mother Monster- classified as one of the biggest in the world, but by hiding inside the very depths of the sea that is far bigger than it, humans have not caught sight of it for the hundred years since it was born.

After finishing its release of water element monster larvas to a certain extent, only the jellyfish-shaped core of the pillar remains, then, it itself will flow with the sea current and move to a different location for spawning.

This process has continued for a hundred years without humans knowing; the Mother of Disastrous Floods.

But it was about to reach its end.

The Strobi Laguna, that only has the function of division, gave birth to an egg.

That egg shone faintly like a pear as it drifted about in the sea current, and it soon hatched. What came out from inside the egg...had the shape of a human.

The surface of his body was transparent like that of a sea creature, but it still was a human-like body that had all extremities.

Its eyes held intelligence.

Transparent wings that looked like the fins of a fish spread from its back.

On the other hand, the main body of the Strobi Laguna steadily withered even

when in the sea, and in the end, its body dissolved and disappeared.

The ultimate water element monster that was given birth with the sacrifice of its mother.

Water Demon Lord, Gabriel.

Was born at this moment.

At the Earth capital, Ishtar Blaze, there's still the remains of what was once called 'Great Pillar-sama'.

Normally, monsters that die would disappear without leaving a corpse, but no one suspected anything about this exception.

It must have stemmed from how out of standard Grandma Wood was.

The upper part that was swallowed by the gravity of the black hole has already disappeared. Only the lower part, that was left there at that time in order to save the people that were assimilated by it, had been removed from the attack range. Right now, there's only a stump left and still remains in the center of Ishtar Blaze.

Below that stump, at the underground part that is buried in earth, there's a round-shaped tuberous root surrounded by the roots that are freely running all the way down as if trying to protect it.

It had an irregular spherical shape, making it look like it was molded by hand.

But the size was that of a human.

That tuberous root began to crack as if giving birth, and from inside, a human appeared.

It looked like an old person with wrinkles all over its skin, but that wasn't the case.

It was a human-shaped being that had all its body made of tree bark.

When that 'human' crept out of the earth, branches came out from his back, and leaves grew abundantly from it.

The silhouette of those branches that grew thickly from both sides were like

wings.

The ultimate earth element monster that was birthed by the Earth Mother Monster that was supposed to have died.

Earth Demon Lord, Uriel.

After he flew away, the stump of the giant tree, that was thought to remain there forever, had dried at incredible speed, returned to the earth, and disappeared.

In the next morning, the people of Ishtar Blaze were surprised by its sudden disappearance.

Each Mother Monster was at a faraway place, but as if their wills had converged, they all gave birth to Demon Lords with their lives in exchange.

Whether this was a coincidence, a natural course of events, or maybe a twist of fate; no one knew.

The Demon Lords that had been born used their divine power to fly and were heading to a certain location. And that location was the same for all the Demon Lords.

The place where the Demon Lord Gabriel and the Demon Lord Uriel landed at was a place among the mountains that was far apart from human habitat.

At that place, there was someone in the middle of its meal.

“...So you have already come. What an impatient bunch.”

Even so, the man continued eating.

What he was eating was the corpse of a bird. Piercing the neck of the bird with his teeth, he crunches it off.

The corpse of the bird was covered in flames and was burning red. It looked like it would get someone severely burned just by touching it, and yet, he continued eating as if normal.

Grabbing hold of his Mother, Phoenix, he chews it up completely.

The one having a meal was the very ultimate fire element monster that the

Fire Mother Monster, Phoenix, had given birth to.

Fire Demon Lord, Michael.

In order to give birth to him, his mother had given all of its life force.

And its body was being eaten by the Fire Demon Lord.

In time, the Demon Lord Michael had finished eating all including the bones and stands up. From his back, there were burning crimson fire wings just like those of his mother.

“Is this all of us?” (Michael)

Michael looks at Gabriel and Uriel who had gathered below him.

“...Looks like there’s one more.” (Michael)

“Yeah, it is me.”

The fourth voice that could be heard with no figure in sight.

It was the voice of the Wind Demon Lord Raphael.

“Different from you guys who were born peacefully, I ended up meeting a powerful enemy right in the moment I was born, you see. Practically all of my body was destroyed.” (Raphael)

Changing each and every single cell that composes his body into insects, breaking them up, and combining them after, the Demon Lord Raphael is able to appear again.

Because of this ability, Haine and Shiva cooperated to imprison him without letting a single one of his cells escape, and erased him completely.

However, Raphael’s move for survival had already been made before all of that happened.

When the light bullet shot by the combination of Karen and Hyue connected, the head of Raphael had been blown to pieces and meat scattered about, and with his ability, it all turned to insects and returned to his body to safely regenerate.

However, at that time, there were several small insects that didn’t actually return.

Due to how weak his enemies were, he was certain of his victory, so he didn't think there was any need to hurry and return, and a few of them were left loitering around.

Before they all returned, Haine had arrived, and the main body of Raphael was destroyed.

Raphael lost because of underestimating them, yet ironically, he survived due to underestimating them.

"It was a terrifying enemy. He was using a power that didn't fall into any of the categories earth, fire, wind, water, and light. He will definitely become the biggest obstacle in creating our desired monster paradise." (Raphael)

The voice of the bodiless Raphael.

Right now, the several small flies are his very being, and due to them being so small, it was impossible to catch them with the naked eye.

"Stop with the lame excuses. What an unsightly fellow you are." (Uriel)

"Right. Losing against a mere human, looks like the Wind Demon Lord was quite the failure. If trash like this was born in exchange of its own life, the Wind Mother was probably not that big of a deal either." (Gabriel)

The tone of Uriel and Gabriel towards Raphael was filled with contempt.

Even if they are fellow Demon Lords, fellow monsters, they were seeds that were born from completely different creators.

The only thing that is binding them is their prejudice towards humans.

The four of them had the same objective of eradicating humans and bringing up their own race into supremacy. However, the other three aside from themselves were enemies that are fighting for that spot. They are by no means allies.

And yet, what is the reason of them gathering in one place like this?

"We are comrades." (Michael)

Shaking its fire wings, the Fire Demon Lord Michael spoke.

"You all must have seen it too. You must have seen it the moment your own

mother reached understanding; the moment the thing called self-consciousness was gained. That being's shining figure." (Michael)

Uriel and Gabriel fall silent.

Raphael may be bodiless right now, but it could be felt that he had fallen silent as well.

"That Being said: 'We are the ones who should become the next rulers of this surface world. Destroy the foolish and greedy humans. In order to grasp this world in your hands, you should work together'. If you are going to go against that Being, I will kill you." (Michael)

Michael's fist was pushed out.

"...I understand. I don't have any intentions of going against that Being."
(Uriel)

"We were born for that sake after all. Let's all get along." (Gabriel)

"In order to challenge that man again, I need the help of you guys." (Raphael)

The fist that Michael pushed out was met with two other fists, and in the end, one small fly had landed on top of them.

""""All for the sake of eradicating humans.""""

Earth, water, fire, and wind; the heart of these four Demon Lords overlapped.

"First, let's gather strength. We have barely hatched out, so our strength is lacking. Our body is still not completed yet. Especially Raphael. Until you regain your body, you won't be able to do anything flashy." (Michael)

Just as Michael said, the Demon Lords that had just been born have taken the appearance of humans and their appearance was that of children.

Their height was small and their face was childish. Just like the Raphael before he was defeated by Kuromiya Haine.

In other words, they will grow from now on.

"We will hide and wait for time to pass. In time, it will begin. Let's wait until the prelude of destruction. At that time, that Being will most likely descend as well. That Being that has only allowed us to hear its voice, will definitely let us

see its figure once everything is over.” (Michael)

“Right.” (Uriel)

“I am looking forward to it.” (Gabriel)

“Before then, I will make sure to vindicate my honor.” (Raphael)

The one who gathered all four Demon Lords and guided them.

“...The Demon Lord among Demon Lords; the Great Demon Lord, Lucifer-sama.” (Michael)